STAR WARS
DARTH MAUL
BLACK, WHITE & RED
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MARVEL

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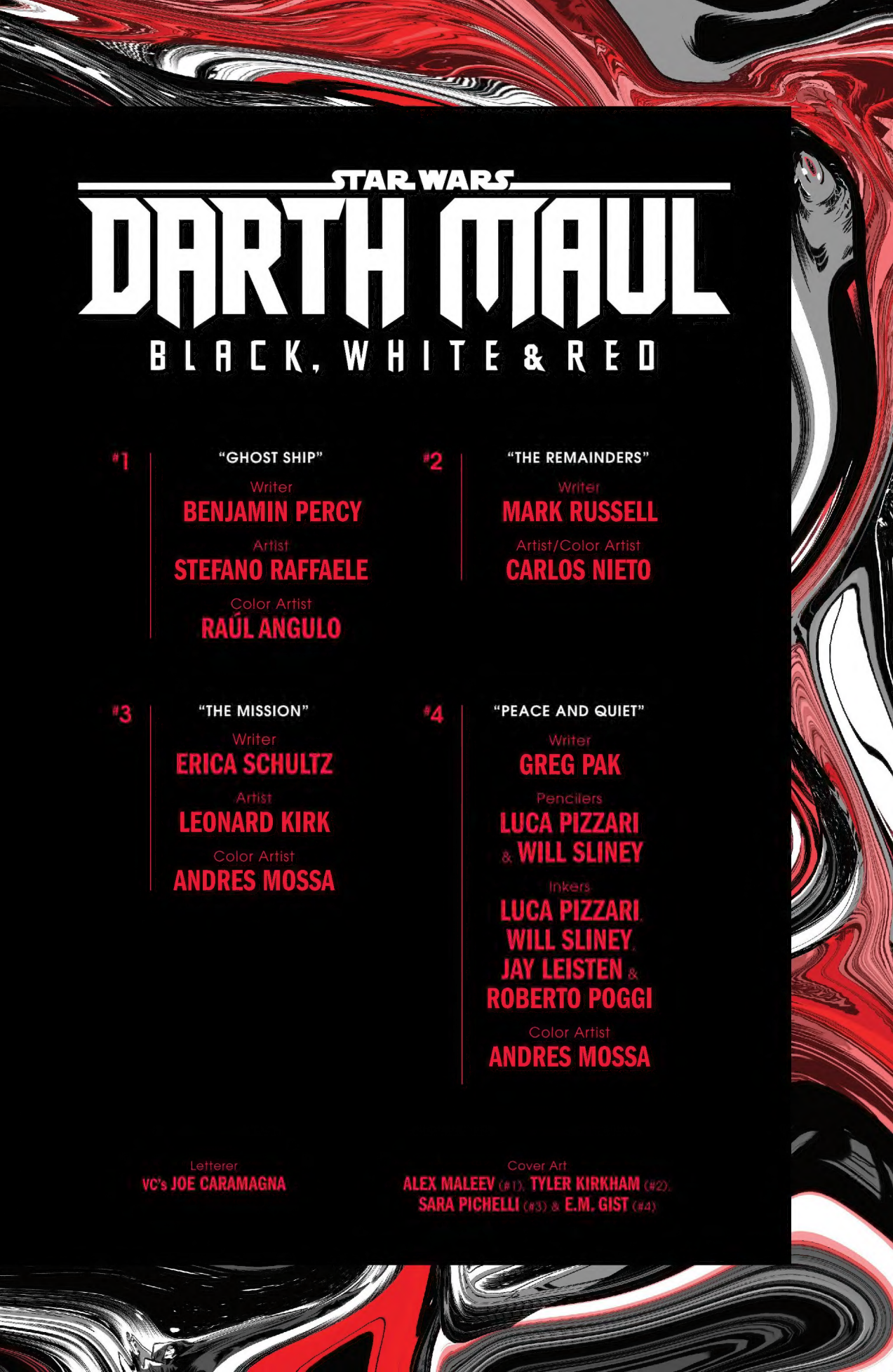

#1 "GHOST SHIP"

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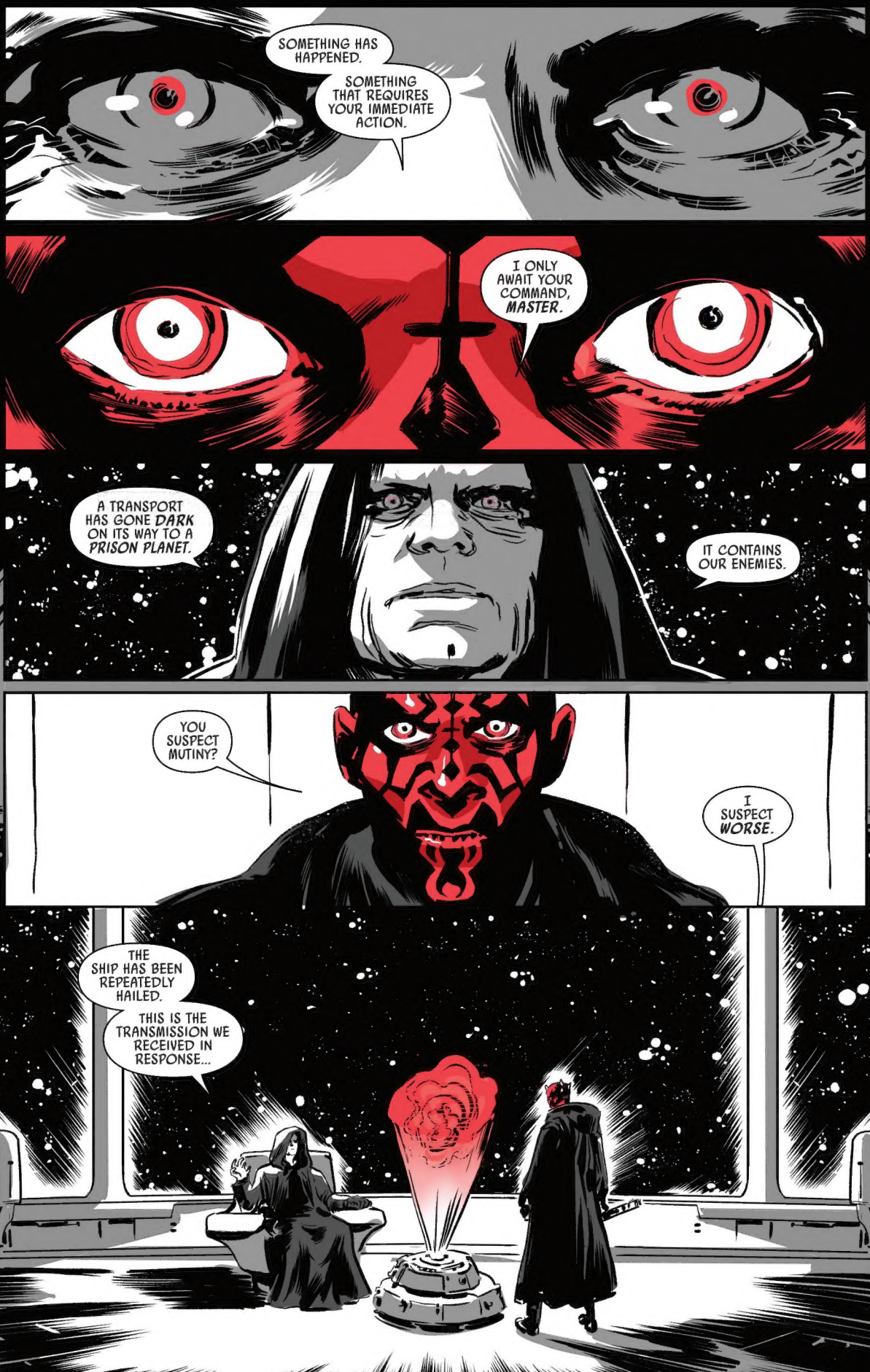
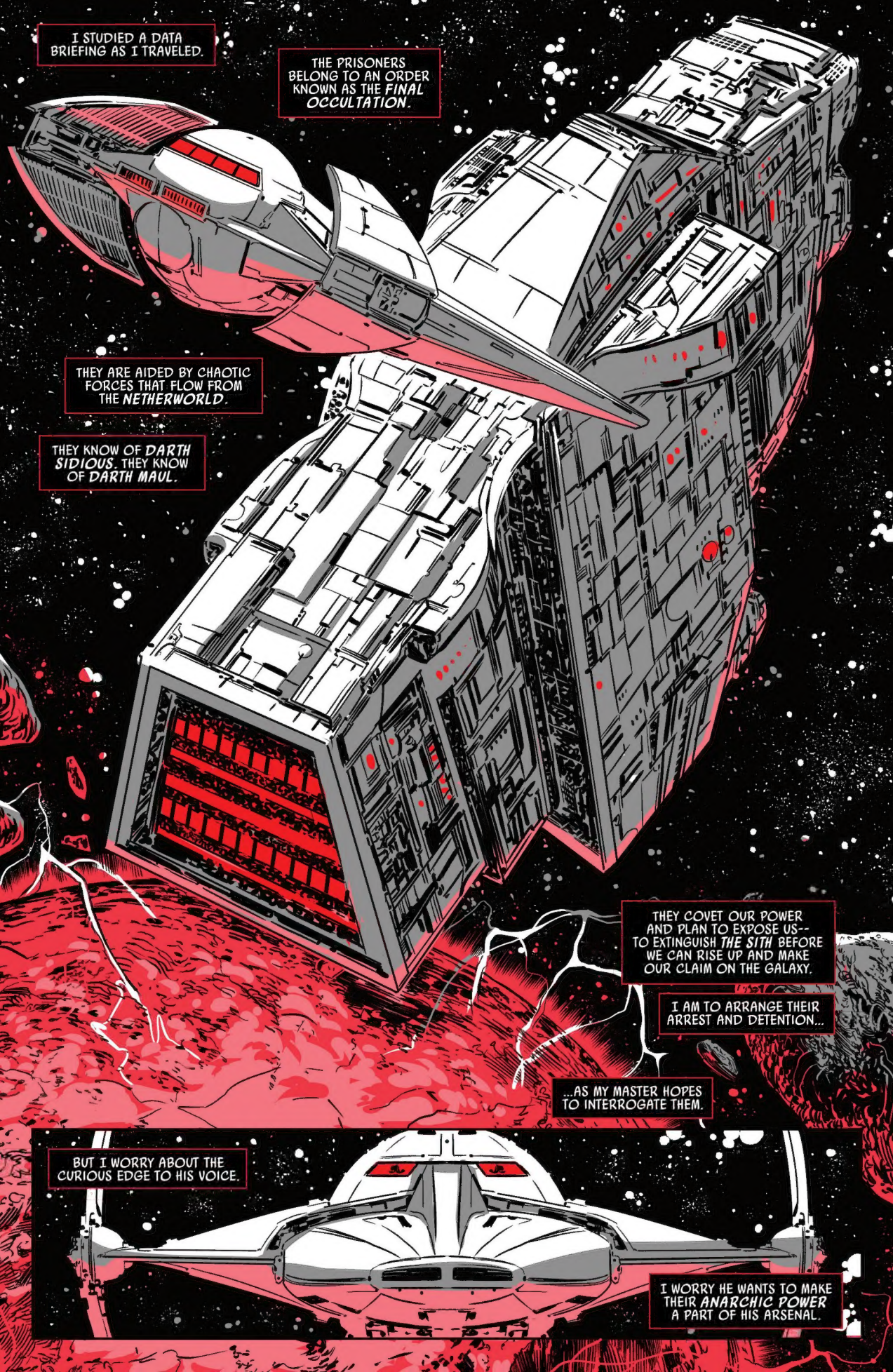
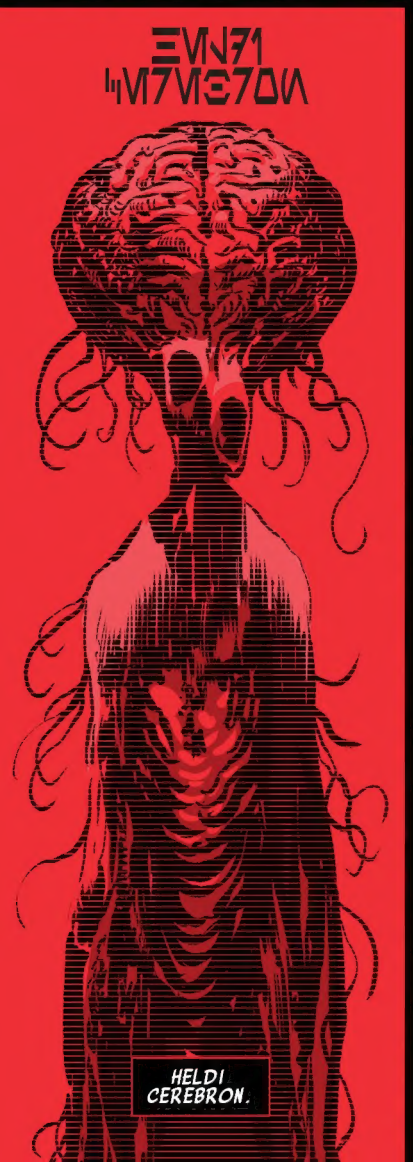

SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED.
SOMETHING THAT REQUIRES YOUR IMMEDIATE ACTION.
I ONLY AWAIT YOUR COMMAND, MASTER.
A TRANSPORT HAS GONE DARK ON ITS WAY TO A PRISON PLANET.
IT CONTAINS OUR ENEMIES.
YOU SUSPECT MUTINY?
I SUSPECT WORSE.
THE SHIP HAS BEEN REPEATEDLY HAILED.
THIS IS THE TRANSMISSION WE RECEIVED IN RESPONSE...

THE AUDIO SOUNDS LIKE A THOUSAND PEOPLE CRYING OUT IN PAIN.
AND THE IMAGES...
...WELL... AS YOU CAN SEE...
...IT MAKES YOU FEEL AS THOUGH YOUR MIND IS BEING TORN ASUNDER.
A FASCINATING BLAST OF DISORDER.
THERE IS MORE, BUT YOU HAVE SEEN ALL YOU NEED TO SEE, DARTH MAUL.

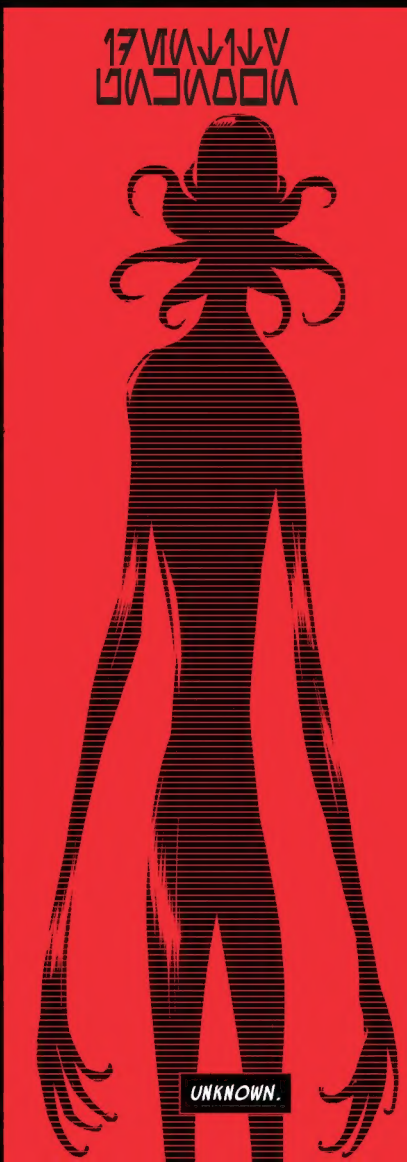
NONE OF IT IS CORPOREAL. IT IS THE STUFF OF NIGHTMARES. LIKE THE LEGENDS OF DARK MAGIC.
PROFOUNDLY DARK.
AND PROFOUNDLY UNSTABLE AS WELL.
AGAINST SUCH A FORCE AS THIS...
...I NEED A COLD, BRUTAL, PRECISE WEAPON.
MASTER...
...I AM SUCH A WEAPON.
SSK
SSK


I STUDIED A DATA BRIEFING AS I TRAVELED.
THE PRISONERS BELONG TO AN ORDER KNOWN AS THE *FINAL OCCULTATION*.
THEY ARE AIDED BY CHAOTIC FORCES THAT FLOW FROM THE *NETHERWORLD*.
THEY KNOW OF *DARTH SIDIOUS*. THEY KNOW OF *DARTH MAUL*.
THEY COVET OUR POWER AND PLAN TO EXPOSE US-- TO EXTINGUISH *THE SITH* BEFORE WE CAN RISE UP AND MAKE OUR CLAIM ON THE GALAXY.
I AM TO ARRANGE THEIR ARREST AND DETENTION...
...AS MY MASTER HOPES TO INTERROGATE THEM.
BUT I WORRY ABOUT THE CURIOUS EDGE TO HIS VOICE.
I WORRY HE WANTS TO MAKE THEIR *ANARCHIC POWER* A PART OF HIS ARSENAL.

DOZENS OF MEMBERS OF THE FINAL OCCULTATION HAVE BEEN DETAINED...
...AT GREAT COST TO THE ARRESTING OFFICERS.
BUT THERE ARE THREE OF THEM WHO I NEED TO PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO.
TOGETHER, THEY ARE A TRINITY OF LEADERSHIP WITHIN THE CULT.


HELDI CEREBRON.

VASIK ALDRITCH.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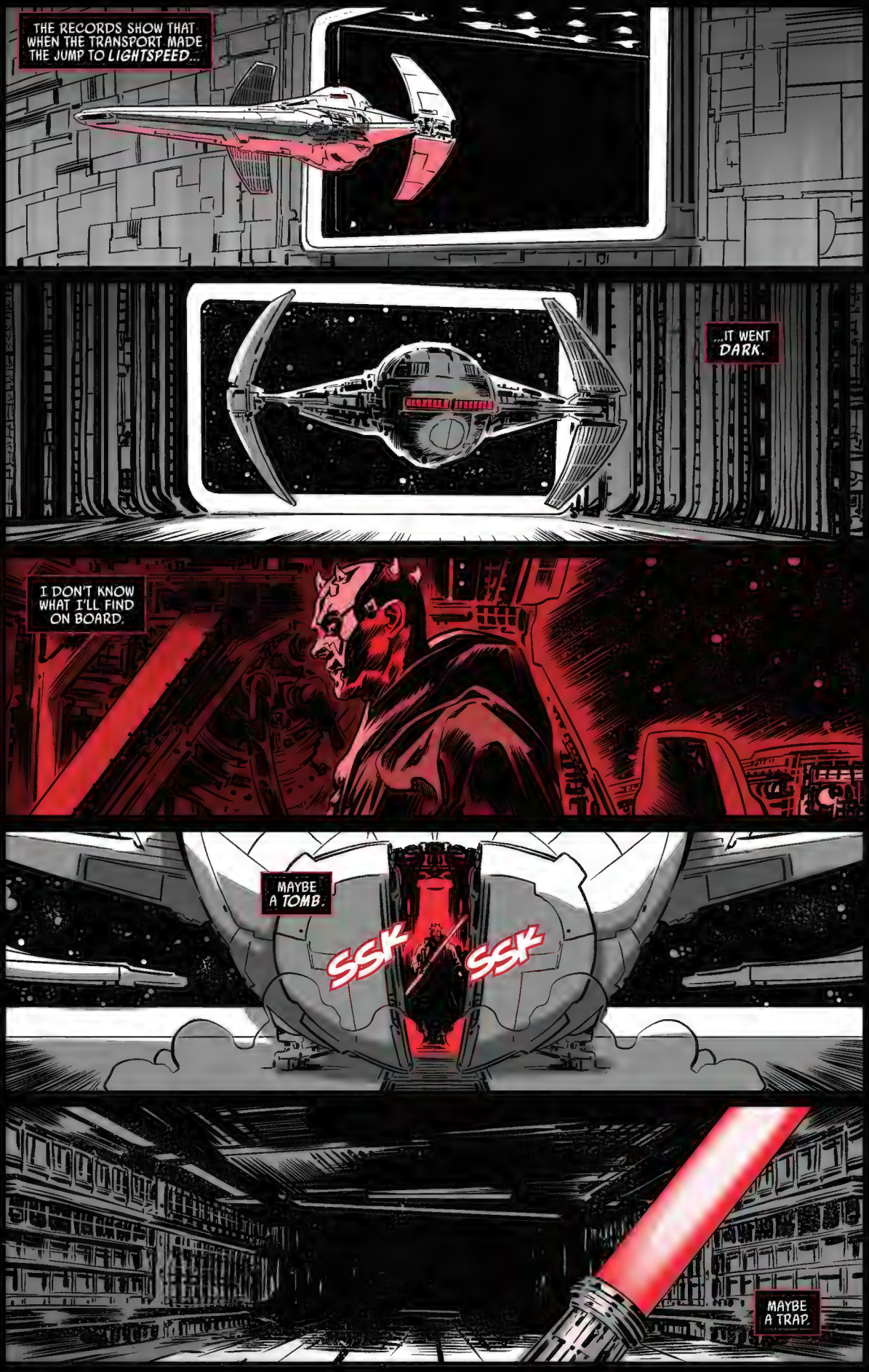

THE RECORDS SHOW THAT WHEN THE TRANSPORT MADE THE JUMP TO LIGHTSPEED...
...IT WENT DARK.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'LL FIND ON BOARD.
MAYBE A TOMB.
SSK
SSK
MAYBE A TRAP.

I WAS WARNED BY MY MASTER TO PREPARE MY BODY AND MIND FOR BATTLE.
WHA...?
HE SAID TO KEEP MY SABER CLOSE...
...AND MY EYES WIDE OPEN.
MY STRENGTH AND SPEED MEAN NOTHING...
...IF I AM UNTETHERED FROM REALITY...
...IF I FALL VICTIM TO THEIR MADNESS.

I ALMOST LOSE MYSELF TO THE DISORDERED ETHER...
...BEFORE RETURNING TO ANOTHER SORT OF TROUBLE.
DVVVRRR
MY SHIP...
SHHHHK
...THE SCIMITAR...
...HAS BEEN CUT ADRIFT...
SHHHHHHK
...AND I WILL BE SUCKED INTO SPACE MYSELF...

...UNLESS...
...UNLESS MY WILL IS STRONGER...
ZEEP ZEEP
...UNLESS THE POWER OF THE DARK SIDE IS GREATER THAN THE POWER OF THE VOID.
DEE-DOO
ORDER IS RESTORED.
SHIK
AS IS MY SABER.
I INITIATE A REMOTE PILOT PROGRAM.
SSSK
THE SCIMITAR WILL LAND ON THE NEARBY ICE PLANET, AWAITING ME.

THERE IS SOMETHING SPOROUS IN THE AIR...
...THAT TASTES OF ROT.
PLEASE...
SHE'S IN MY HEAD!
GET HER OUT OF MY HEAD!
WHO?

HELDI!
SHE'S IN MY HEAD!
SHE'S IN ALL OF OUR HEADS!

I AM LOST.
BUT I CALL ON MY TRAINING.
AND IN THE FACE OF CHAOS...
...I CONCENTRATE ON ORDER.

PZZCHH
THANK YOU. OH, THANK YOU.
WILL YOU HELP ME?
WHOEVER YOU ARE?
PLEASE? PLEASE!

THE DETENTION BLOCK APPEARS DEVOID OF LIFE...
...BUT I SENSE OTHERWISE.
THE DEAD LOOK DIFFERENT, HERE.
THEIR BODIES TWISTED AND BROKEN.
WHAM

WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
I LOCKED MYSELF IN!
YOU SHOULD DO THE SAME!
BEFORE HE GETS YOU!
KHOOM
KHOOM
KHOOOM

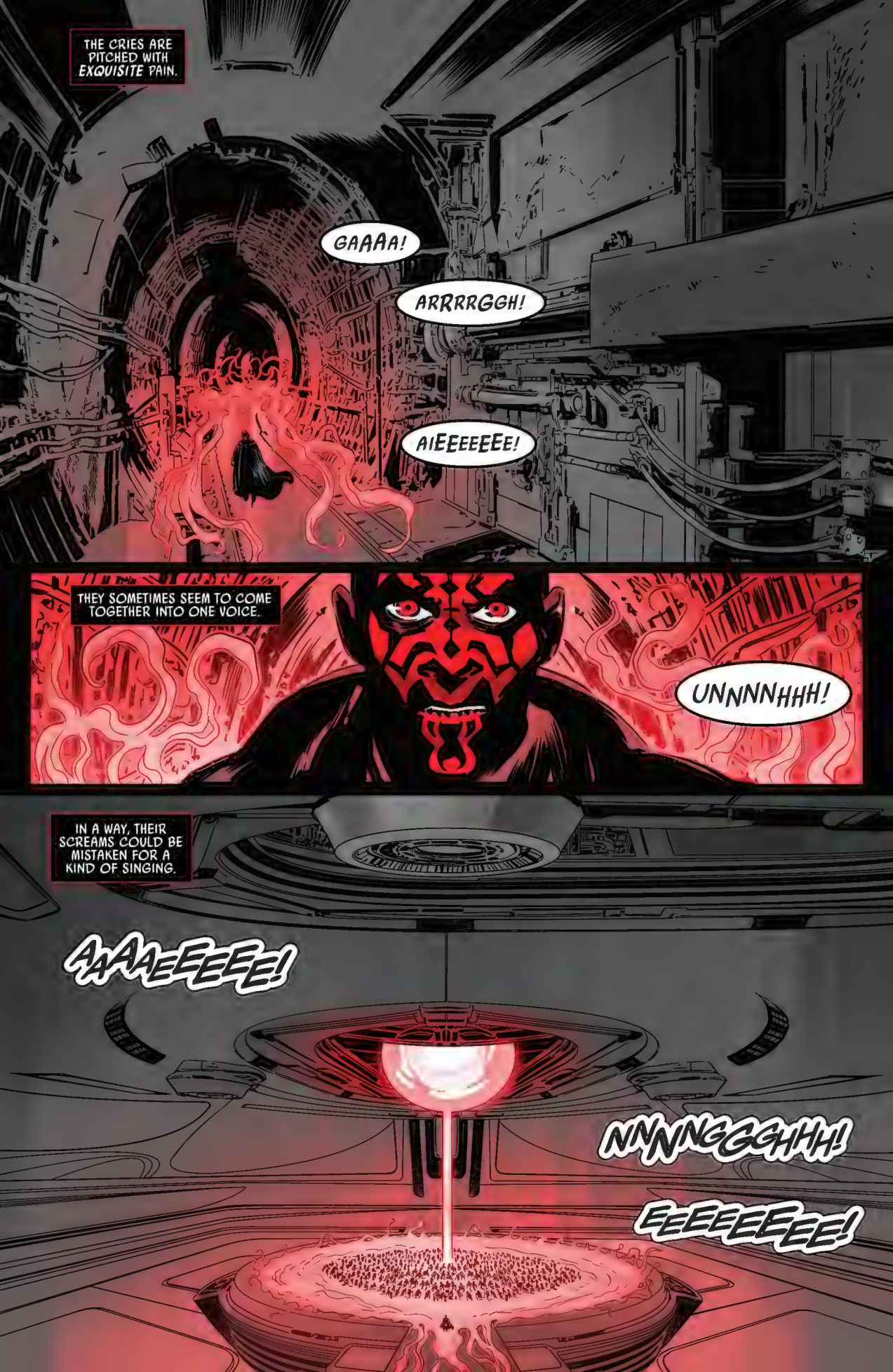
KHOOM
KHOOM
KHOOM
KHOOM
BEFORE VASIK GETS YOU!!!
SSSK
SSSK
HIS BODY IS AS DANGEROUS AS HIS GUN.
BUT THIS IS THE KIND OF FIGHT THAT COMES NATURALLY TO ME.
DZZZT

DZZT
DZZT
HE IS THREE TIMES MY WEIGHT AND FIVE TIMES AS SLOW.
HARRRR!
I UNDERSTAND WHERE I SHOULD MOVE AND HOW I SHOULD STRIKE, ALMOST AS IF I WERE CALCULATING EQUATIONS.
BUT HE FIGHTS MY PRECISION WITH DISORDER.
FWASH!

OH NO.
CRASH
NO!
HRRR!
FWASH
CHOOM

HRK.
UNCH
DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS WE WORSHIP?
CHAOS--
--AND PAIN!
SLIKT
PAIN I UNDERSTAND.

WHERE IS THE LAST PRIEST AMONG YOU?
FOLLOW--HRRK--THE SCREAMS.
AS YOU SAY.
AAAAAEEEEIII!
IT IS AS HE SAID.
GAAAAA!
THE SCREAMS CALL, AND I FOLLOW.


THE CRIES ARE PITCHED WITH EXQUISITE PAIN.
GAAAA!
ARRRRGGH!
AIEEEEEEEE!
THEY SOMETIMES SEEM TO COME TOGETHER INTO ONE VOICE.
UNNNNHHH!
IN A WAY, THEIR SCREAMS COULD BE MISTAKEN FOR A KIND OF SINGING.
AAAAEEEEEE!
NNNNGGGHHH!
EEEEEEEEE!

YOU WISH TO JOIN THEM, DON'T YOU?
SO JOIN THEM.
YOU KNOW ALL TOO WELL THAT THE LINE BETWEEN PLEASURE AND PAIN...
...IS A THIN ONE.

WHAT ARE YOU?
FWASH
I AM AN EMISSARY OF CHAOS.
SIDIOUS HAS THE WRONG AMBITIONS.
HE WANTS TO USE THE DARK SIDE TO CONTROL...
YOU, AS HIS APPRENTICE, HAVE THE SAME SIMPLE MINDSET.
YOU THINK ONLY IN BINARY. YOU SAY THERE IS A LIGHT AND A DARK SIDE TO THE FORCE.

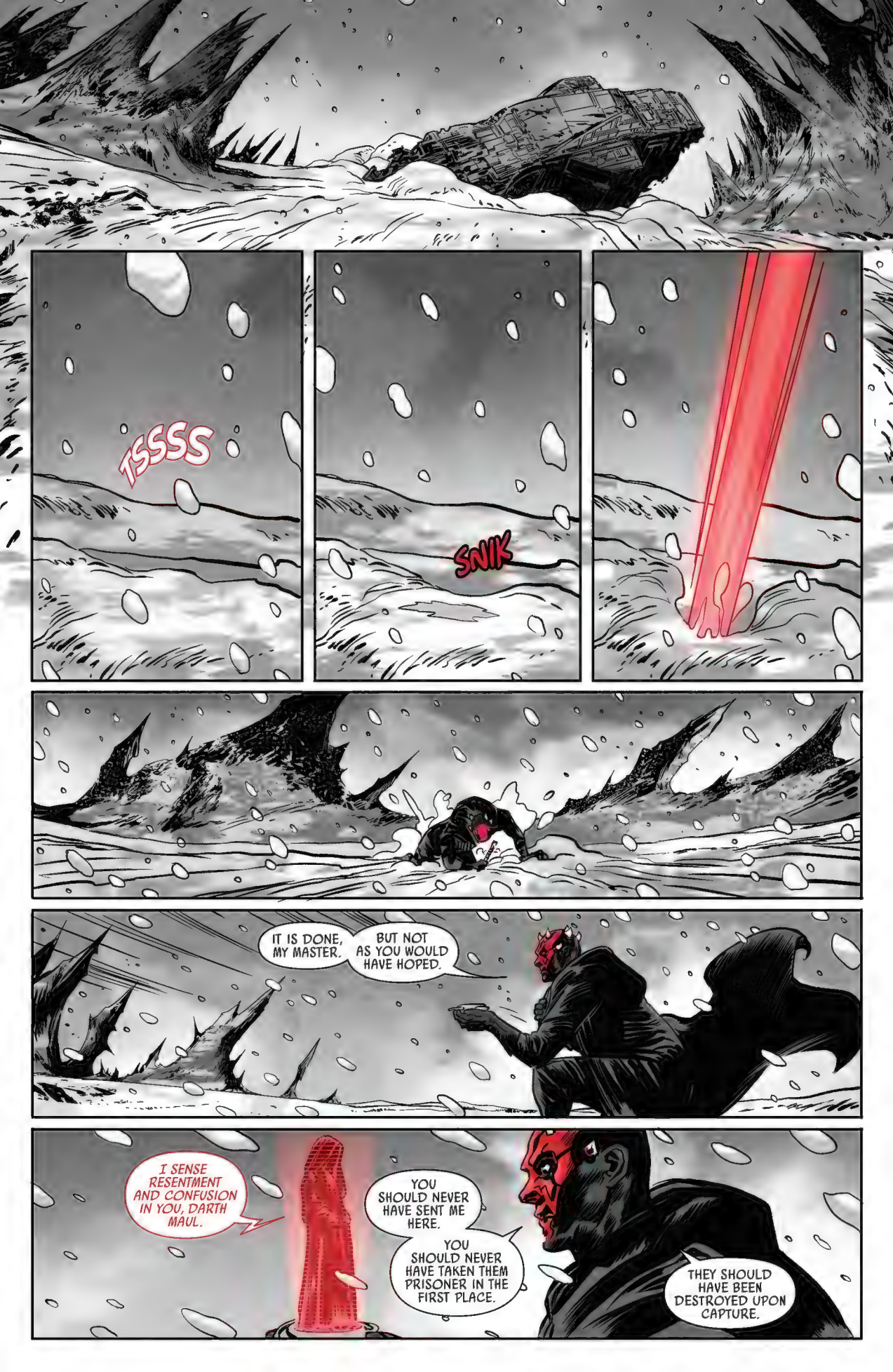
BUT THEY ARE THE SAME. THEY ARE THE WAYS OF ORDER.
AND THE FINAL OCCULTATION WANTS ANARCHY.
THIS IS THE TRUE SYSTEM OF THE UNIVERSE.
CHAOS, NOT ORDER.
WHEN SIDIOUS HAD US IMPRISONED, WE BEGAN A SUMMONING CEREMONY THAT WILL SOON BE COMPLETE.
THE HYPERMATTER PARTICLES WON'T TAKE THIS SHIP TO HYPERSPACE.
THEY WILL OPEN A RIFT OF MADNESS.
SCREAMS WILL ECHO THROUGHOUT THE GALAXY.
ALL WILL LIVE ON A RED, BOILING PLANET.

SOMEONE LIKE YOU...SOMEONE WHO KNOWS AND CONTROLS PAIN SO WELL...COULD BE ONE OF OUR HIGH PRIESTS.
WHAT YOU WORSHIP IS ITS OWN PRISON.
KZZZZZZT
SNK

DESTROY HIM.
HEEE!
HASSSS!
MMMMFF!
I COULD FIGHT THEM.
BUT I IMAGINE DISAPPEARING BENEATH A TIDE OF BLOOD AND A MOUNTAIN OF CONFUSED LIMBS...
...AND I REALIZE THAT IS THE WAY TO MADNESS.
THERE IS ANOTHER WAY TO END THIS.
SSSHHK

SIDIOUS WANTED PRISONERS.
BUT THIS IS NOT A FORCE YOU WANT TO INTERROGATE.
OR A WEAPON YOU WANT TO ENLIST.
I DIRECT THE SHIP TO THE NEARBY ICE PLANET.
SSSK
TSSSS

SHOOOOO
KABOOOOOM


TSSSS
SNIK
IT IS DONE, MY MASTER.
BUT NOT AS YOU WOULD HAVE HOPED.
I SENSE RESENTMENT AND CONFUSION IN YOU, DARTH MAUL.
YOU SHOULD NEVER HAVE SENT ME HERE.
YOU SHOULD NEVER HAVE TAKEN THEM PRISONER IN THE FIRST PLACE.
THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN DESTROYED UPON CAPTURE.

THE FINAL OCCULTATION NEARLY BROKE YOU.
NO. THEY NEARLY BROKE THE GALAXY.
REST ASSURED THAT WHATEVER CHAOS THEY SHARED WITH ME...
...WILL REMAIN BURIED HERE.
MY ONLY CONFUSION IS THAT SUCH MADNESS COULD EVEN EXIST.
I SEE NOW MORE THAN EVER THE NEED FOR CONTROL.
MY SHIP AWAITS ME.
YOU WILL SOON FIND ME FAR AWAY FROM THIS COLD AND HAUNTED TOMB.
Fin.

#1 Variant by
BEN HARVEY

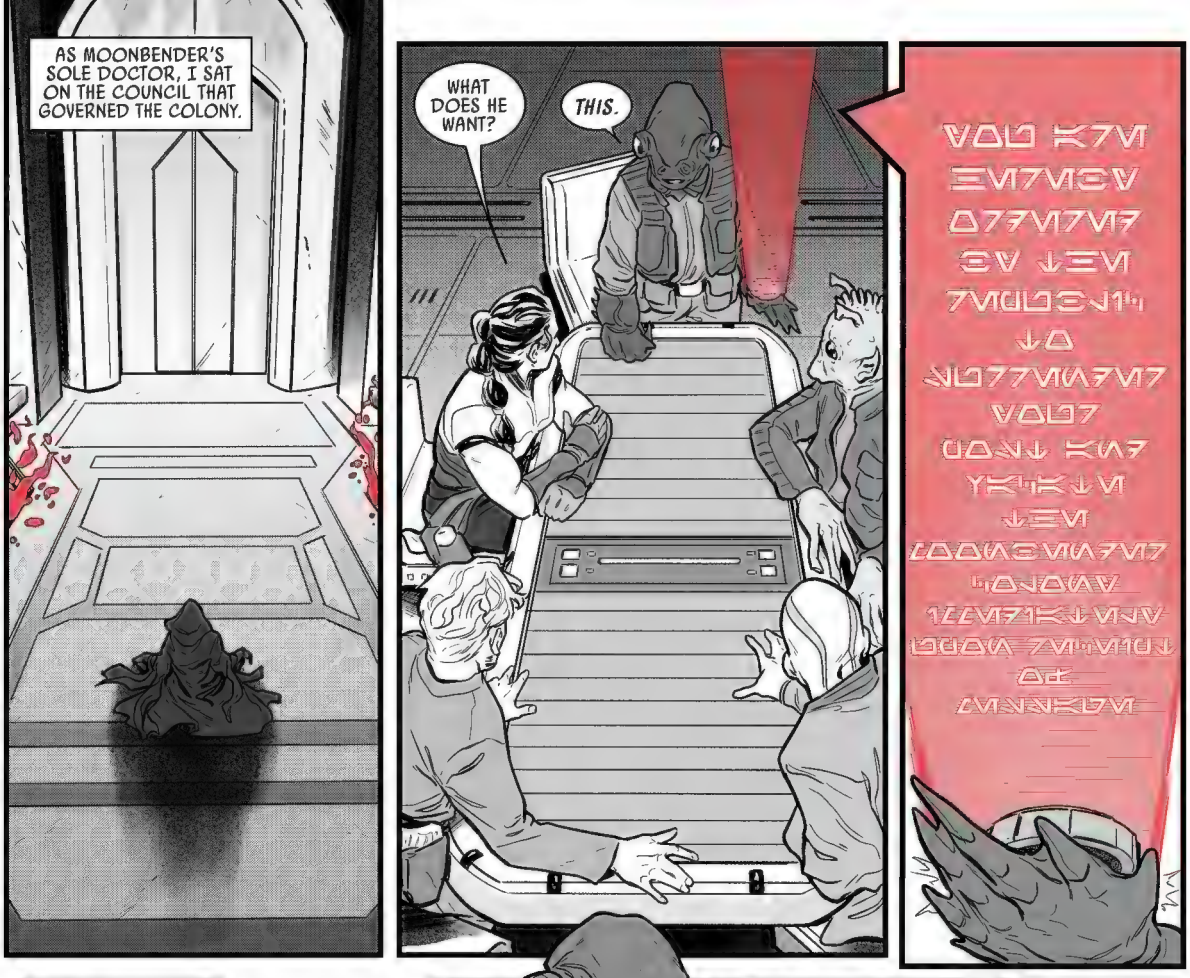
#2

Moonbender Colony. Outer Rim.
THEY CALL US *THE "REMAINDERS."*
FORMER BOUNTY HUNTERS. SOLDIERS OF FORTUNE. THE SURVIVORS OF JUST ABOUT EVERY TYPE OF COMBAT THE GALAXY COULD DREAM UP. AND BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY...
...THE GALAXY IS A *CREATIVE* PLACE.
THEY CALL US THE REMAINDERS BECAUSE JUST ABOUT EVERYONE WE'VE EVER WORKED WITH IS *DEAD*. SOMEHOW, WE'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO LIVED LONG ENOUGH TO QUIT.
WE'RE THE LUCKY ONES.
THAT SHOULD HEAL IN A FEW DAYS.
ASSUMING YOU DON'T PICK AT IT.
WHAT DO I LOOK LIKE, A *SCREERAT?*
BUT WE ARE EXPERTS AT SURVIVAL.
YEAH. SORTA.
IT'S LIVING THAT USUALLY KILLS US.

MOST OF US WERE IN THE BLASTER BUSINESS BEFORE WE COULD READ. SO ADJUSTING TO REGULAR LIFE CAN BE...DIFFICULT.
SO THEY SENT US HERE. MOONBENDER. THE MOST REMOTE COLONY IN THE REPUBLIC.
YOU'VE BEEN A GOOD PATIENT. WELL, GOOD IS AN OVERSTATEMENT. BUT DEFINITELY ADEQUATE.
BELOW AVERAGE AT WORST.
LOOK, DO I GET THE CANDY OR NOT?
TO FIND SOLITUDE. PEACE. AND, IF OUR CONSCIENCES WILL ALLOW IT...ABSOLUTION.
CANDY, BENNIE.
I AM A CERTIFIED MEDICAL DROID SPECIALIZING IN TUMOR IDENTIFICATION AND--
JUST MAKE WITH THE CANDY.
AS YOU WISH, DOCTOR KORVIK.
WE WERE ALSO SENT HERE, TO THE EDGE OF THE KNOWN GALAXY--
SORRY. HE COULD USE A LITTLE REPROGRAMMING.
--TO BE WHATEVER THESE PEOPLE NEEDED FROM US.

I RUN THE ONLY MEDCENTER IN THE COLONY. THE REMAINDERS ALSO SERVE AS MOONBENDER'S LEGAL SYSTEM.
IT'S MY VAPORATOR!
BUT IT'S USING MY MOISTURE!
NOBODY'S STEALING YOUR MOISTURE.
OUR RESIDENT MUNITIONS EXPERT, BARVA-ZUL, IS THE COLONY'S SHERIFF.
WE ALSO DEFEND THE COLONY FROM RAIDERS.
A VESSEL APPROACHES, GENERAL ZANDLOSS.
ALERT THE REST OF THE COUNCIL.
NOT THAT THERE'S MUCH WORTH RAIDING. THE COLONY'S DOWN TO ABOUT A HUNDRED RESIDENTS.
A FEW OLD MINERS AND VAPOR FARMERS. THEIR FAMILIES.
AN UNIDENTIFIED VESSEL HAS MADE MOONFALL, KORVIK.
WAIT HERE.
WE'RE THE COLONY'S PROTECTORS.
OR AT LEAST WE WERE...

...UNTIL HE ARRIVED.

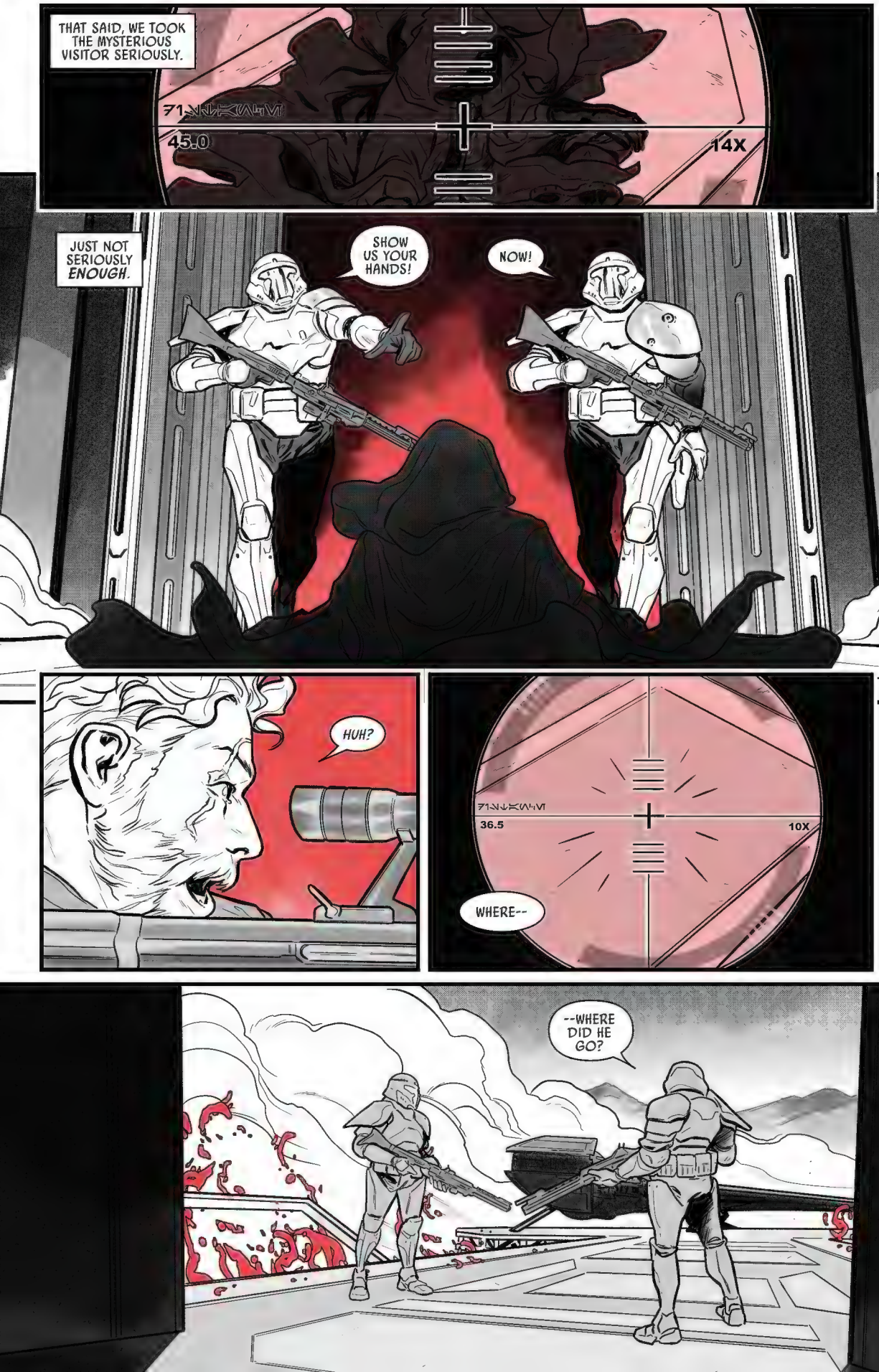

AS MOONBENDER'S SOLE DOCTOR, I SAT ON THE COUNCIL THAT GOVERNED THE COLONY.
WHAT DOES HE WANT?
THIS.

WE ARE TO LEAVE THE COLONY. IMMEDIATELY. BY ORDER OF THE REPUBLIC.
PFFT. I'M NOT LEAVING. I JUST BOUGHT A NEW VAPORATOR.
DO YOU THINK THE ORDER IS AUTHENTIC?

THIS IS A SMALL COLONY, ZHEEMO. IT COSTS THEM NOTHING TO MAKE US LEAVE.
IT COSTS THEM NOTHING TO LET US STAY, JEQ.

WE DECIDED TO DISPATCH A MESSENGER DROID TO CORUSCANT TO AUTHENTICATE THE ORDERS.
IT WOULDN'T TAKE LONG TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE ORDER TO VACATE MOONBENDER WAS REAL, WE THOUGHT.
BREEEP!
WHIRP!
BUT WHEN THE STRANGER DESTROYED OUR PROBE...
ZAAAAAASH!
BOOOOM!
...WE HAD OUR ANSWER SOONER THAN WE THOUGHT.

SO...I'M GUESSING THE ORDERS WERE FAKE.
WHO *IS* THAT?!
WHOEVER IT IS...I DOUBT THEY TAKE REJECTION WELL.
SO WHAT DO WE DO?
WE *SHOOT* HIM.
IMMEDIATELY.
SEND TWO SENTRIES TO TAKE OUR VISITOR INTO CUSTODY.
I'LL SNIPE HIM IF HE TRIES ANYTHING.
SPOKEN LIKE AN ASSASSIN.
A *LIVING* ASSASSIN.
MAKE SURE HE ENTERS THROUGH THE *MAIN GATE.*
WE WEREN'T TOO CONCERNED. THERE WAS ONLY *ONE* OF HIM, AFTER ALL.

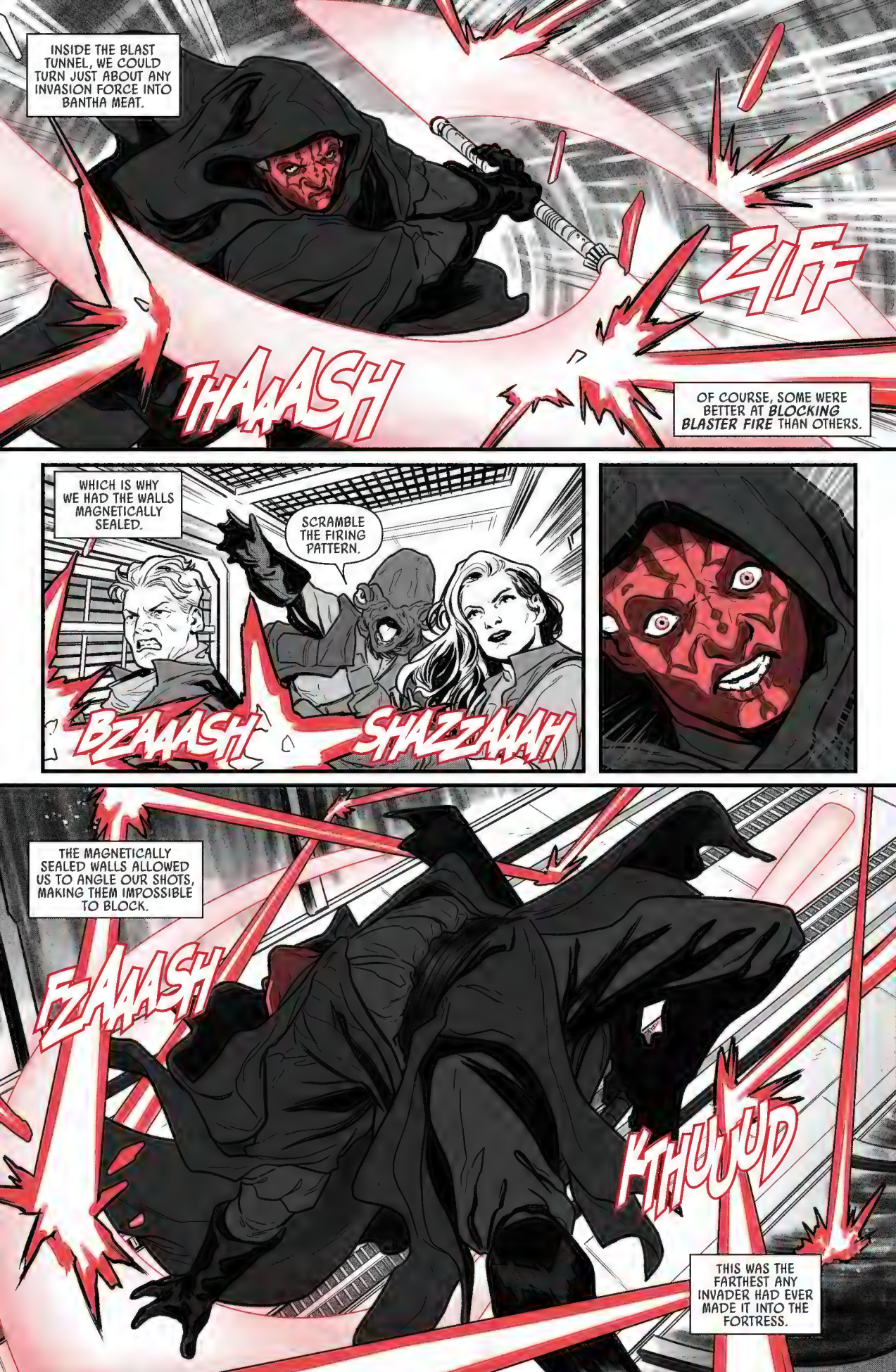

THAT SAID, WE TOOK THE MYSTERIOUS VISITOR SERIOUSLY.
45.0
14X
JUST NOT SERIOUSLY ENOUGH.
SHOW US YOUR HANDS!
NOW!
HUH?
36.5
10X
WHERE--
--WHERE DID HE GO?

MAYBE WE SCARED HIM OFF.
ZOOOOSH
FZAAAAASH
HOLY-- IS THAT A JEDI?!

JEDI OR NOT, WHO WOULD SEND A WARRIOR OF THAT CALIBER *HERE?*
AND *WHY?*
WHAT IS IT?
A SECOND MESSAGE. FROM THE STRANGER.
THE SECOND MESSAGE READ, SIMPLY, "LEAVE OR DIE."
AND I'D BE LYING IF I SAID WE DIDN'T CONSIDER IT.
MOST OF US HAD SURVIVED TO THIS POINT BY KNOWING WHEN TO QUIT A JOB.
AND WHAT WERE WE *DEFENDING?* THERE WAS HARDLY ANYONE LEFT IN THE COLONY.
SO, WHAT *NOW?*
BUT FOR THOSE FEW WHO *DID* REMAIN, WE WERE ALL THAT STOOD BETWEEN THEM...
...AND WHATEVER WAS OUTSIDE.
BATTLE STATIONS.

IT HAD BEEN A WHILE SINCE ANY OF US HAD BEEN IN A FIGHT. YEARS FOR MOST OF US.
IS THAT ALL?
YOU DON'T EVEN WANT TO KNOW WHAT I'VE GOT UNDER HERE.
BUT SOME THINGS YOU DON'T FORGET.
THIS'LL DO.
AND EVEN WHEN YOU FORGET... YOUR BODY REMEMBERS.
BE PREPARED TO FALL BACK TO THE MEDCENTER, KORVIK.
THERE WILL BE CASUALTIES.

CONSTRUCTED BY THE FIRST REMAINDERS WHO CAME TO MOONBENDER, THIS TOWER WAS BUILT TO BE THE ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER OF THE COLONY.
BUT MORE THAN THAT...
KARRUNNK
...IT WAS DESIGNED TO BE A FORTRESS.
FIRE WHEN READY!
FZZZZZHHNNN
EVERYONE WHO CAME THROUGH THE FRONT GATE HAD TO ENTER THROUGH "THE TUNNEL."
IT WAS A TRAP.


INSIDE THE BLAST TUNNEL, WE COULD TURN JUST ABOUT ANY INVASION FORCE INTO BANTHA MEAT.
ZIFF
THAAASH
OF COURSE, SOME WERE BETTER AT BLOCKING BLASTER FIRE THAN OTHERS.
WHICH IS WHY WE HAD THE WALLS MAGNETICALLY SEALED.
SCRAMBLE THE FIRING PATTERN.
BZAAASH
SHAZZAAAH
THE MAGNETICALLY SEALED WALLS ALLOWED US TO ANGLE OUR SHOTS, MAKING THEM IMPOSSIBLE TO BLOCK.
FZAAASH
KTHUUUD
THIS WAS THE FARTHEST ANY INVADER HAD EVER MADE IT INTO THE FORTRESS.

UNTIL NOW.

ZINGGGK

BHZZOOW

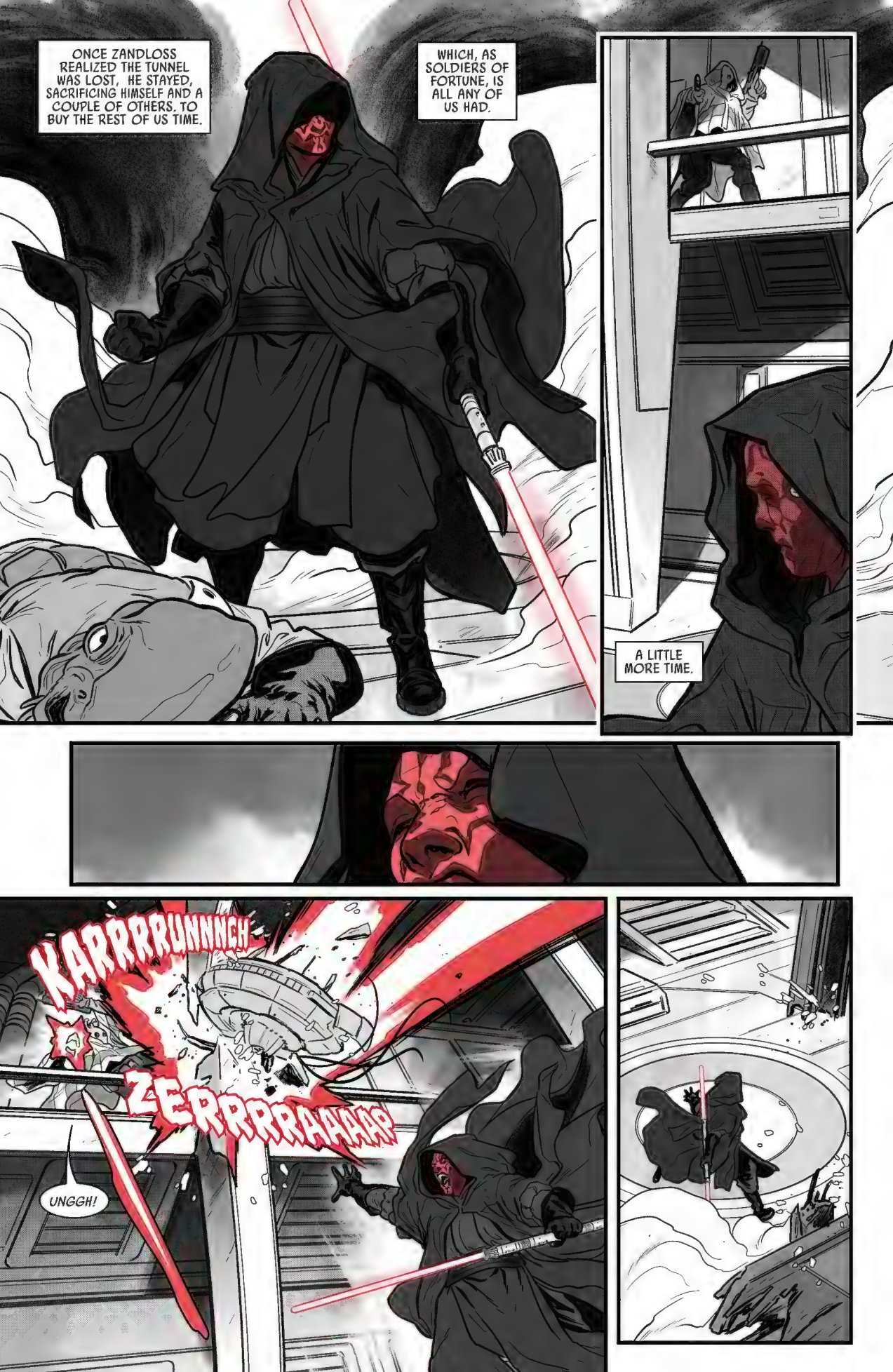
FALL BACK! FORM DEFENSIVE POSITIONS!

FZZHHHRRR

KATHUDDD

ZZZAAAASH

SEAL OFF THE LIVING QUARTERS!


ONCE ZANDLOSS REALIZED THE TUNNEL WAS LOST, HE STAYED, SACRIFICING HIMSELF AND A COUPLE OF OTHERS. TO BUY THE REST OF US TIME.
WHICH, AS SOLDIERS OF FORTUNE, IS ALL ANY OF US HAD.
A LITTLE MORE TIME.
KARRRRUNNNGH
ZERRRRRAAAAP
UNGGH!

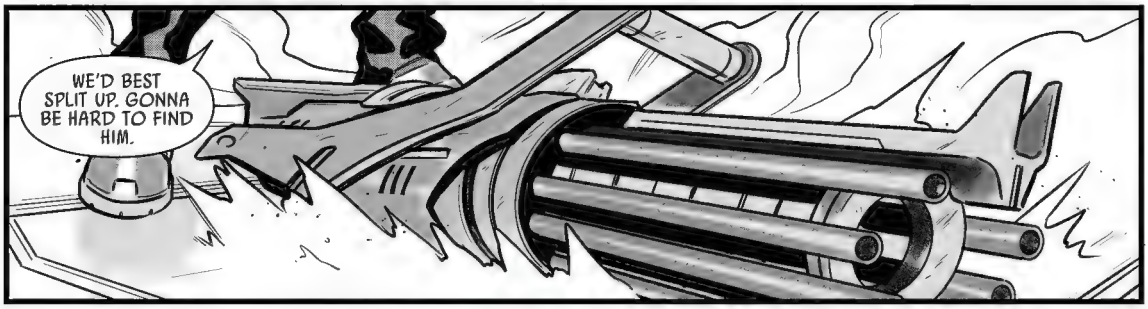
THE BATTLE FOR THE TOWER WAS NOT GOING WELL.
IS SHE GOING TO DIE?
NO, BENNIE, JUST SOME LIGAMENT DAMAGE.
I CAN COUNT THE NUMBER OF THINGS I'M GOOD AT ON ONE HAND.
DEJARIK, DROID REPAIR, KILLING PEOPLE FROM A DISTANCE...
SORRY. HE COULD USE A LITTLE REPROGRAMMING.
...DOCTORING DIDN'T MAKE THE HAND.
WE NEED HELP!
GET HIM ON THE TABLE.
I'M LEARNING THE JOB AS I GO. I'M NOT THE DOC BECAUSE OF MY ENCYCLOPEDIC MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE.
AAANGGGGHH!
I'M THE DOCTOR--
--BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ONE ELSE.
I'M RIGHT HERE.

HOW IS THE ASSIGNMENT GOING...
...MY APPRENTICE?
THEY CHOSE TO FIGHT, MASTER.
OF COURSE THEY DID.
THEY'RE FIGHTERS.
ZAAAAAAAASH
AAAAAGH!
YOU APPEAR TO BE BUSY. SO I WILL LET YOU GET BACK TO WORK.
DON'T COME BACK EMPTY-HANDED.

JEQ WAS THE OLDEST REMAINDER. AND HE'D SERVED ON MOONBENDER THE LONGEST.
AND HE WAS STILL THE BEST CLOSE-COMBAT FIGHTER IN THE COLONY.
THWAP
RUMOR HAS IT HE USED TO BE AN ACROBAT.
FNOOOSH
BUT WHO KNOWS?
AS A RULE, WE DON'T TALK ABOUT THE PAST. THE PAST IS A DARKENED ROOM.
AND WHEN THE DARKNESS IS BEHIND YOU...
...KEEP MOVING.
EAT PLASMA!
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP

THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
SCHLINK

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GOING HUNTING.
YOU MISSED HIM? OUT OF ABOUT A *HUNDRED SHOTS*, YOU MISSED THEM ALL?
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE MOVE LIKE THAT. PRESENT COMPANY INCLUDED.
HEY!


WE'D BEST SPLIT UP. GONNA BE HARD TO FIND HIM.

JUST FOLLOW THE SOUND OF MY FOOT KICKING HIS FACE.
STAY CLEAR OF HIM. I'M SWITCHING TO WIDE-YIELD QUARRELS.

AND KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN. HE COULDN'T HAVE GONE FAR.

EVERY REMAINDER WHO COMES HERE BRINGS WITH THEM THEIR OWN STORY.
THEIR OWN WAY OF FIGHTING.
AND THEIR OWN WEAKNESSES.
LOOKS LIKE ONE OF MY SHOTS LANDED AFTER ALL. JEQ OWES ME A BARIUM FIZZ.
LET'S GET A CLOSER LOOK AT THAT UGLY MUG.
OH NO!

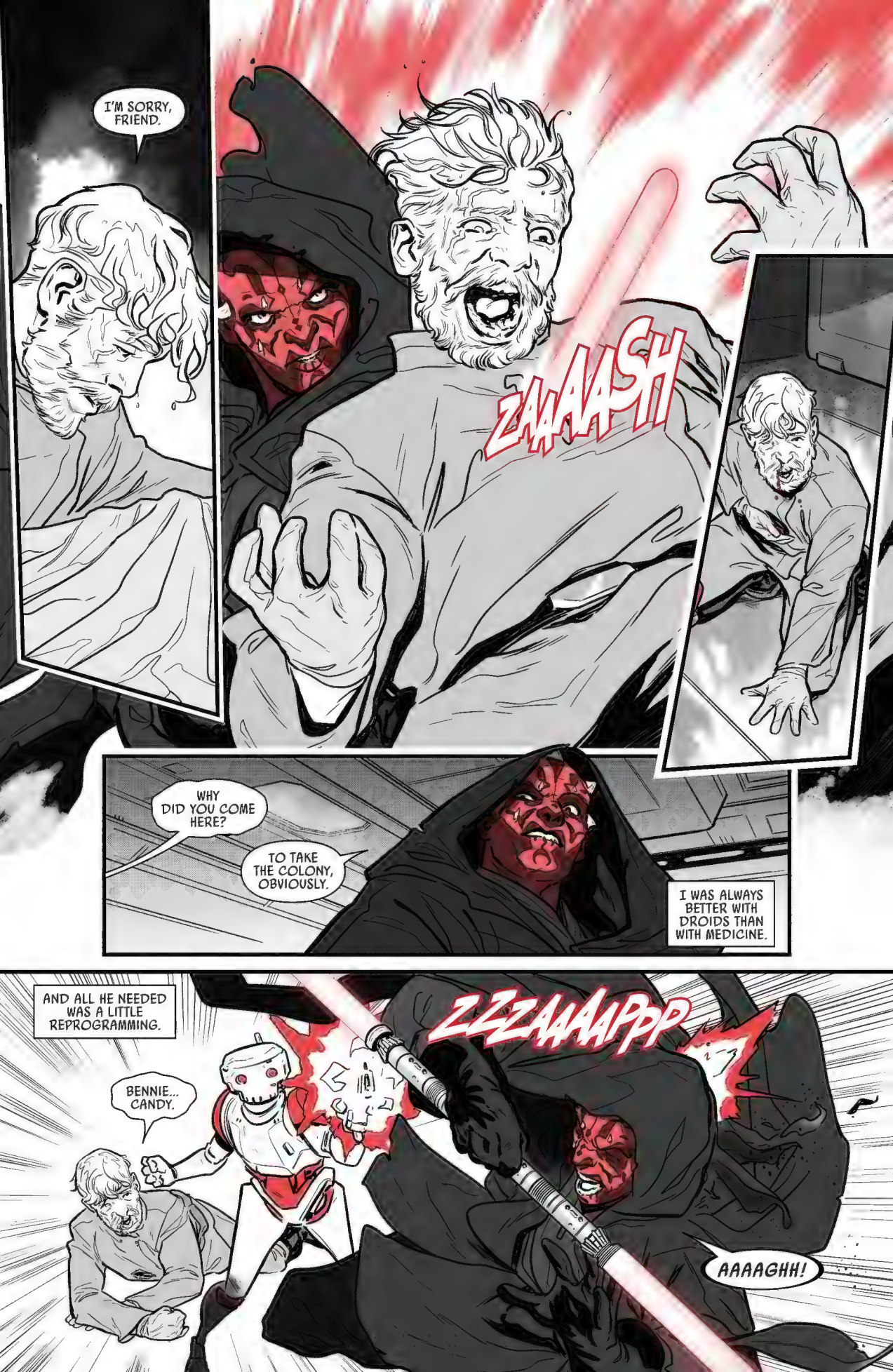
JEQ!
THWACK
ZOOOSH

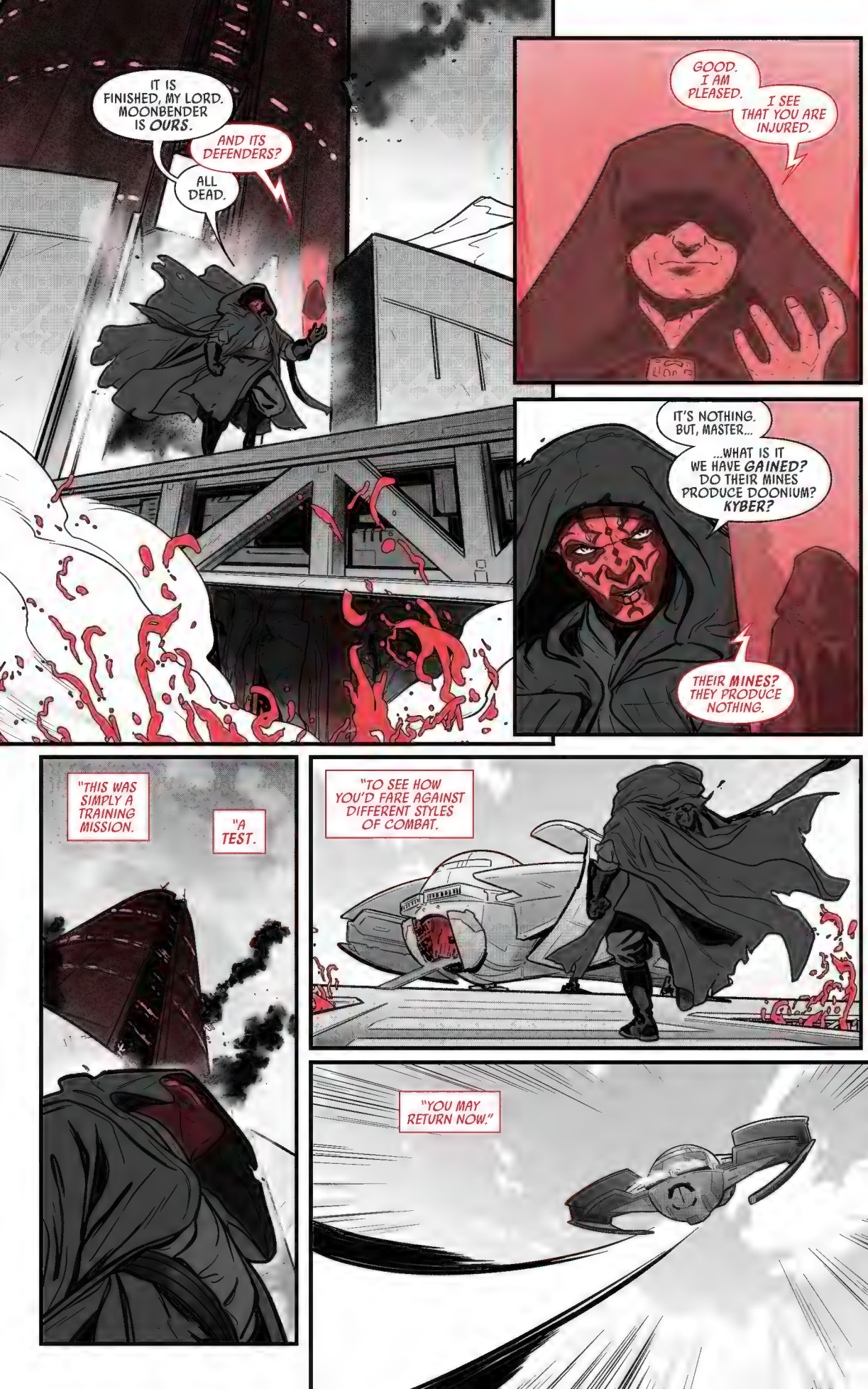
EVERYBODY KNOWS THEY'RE GOING TO DIE.
AND THEY STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT WHEN IT HAPPENS.
I'VE SEEN IT A HUNDRED TIMES.
THE DARKNESS, AT LAST, GETTING INSIDE.
EVERY REMAINDER WHO COMES HERE ADDS THEIR OWN PERSONAL TOUCH TO THE TOWER'S DEFENSES.
BEEP

BARVA-ZUL, A DEMOLITIONS EXPERT, HAD THE WALLS EMBEDDED WITH DURASTEEL FRAGMENTS.
TURNING THE WALLS INTO A SHRAPNEL CANNON WHEN DETONATED.
BOOOOOM.
THE GALAXY'S A CREATIVE PLACE.
A MASTERPIECE OF INGENUITY--
--PAINTED IN BLOOD.

I CAN'T DO THIS ON MY OWN.
I'M GOING TO NEED YOUR HELP, BENNIE.
KAFOOOOM
HE'S GETTING CLOSER.
I KNEW BETTER THAN TO ASK THE WOUNDED HOW THE BATTLE WAS GOING.
AND WHAT'S MORE...
...I DIDN'T NEED TO.

THE MEDCENTER WAS LOCATED IN THE MOST REMOTE AND DEFENSIBLE PLACE IN THE TOWER.
AND I COULD TELL BY THE NUMBER OF WOUNDED COMING IN...
...THAT THE BATTLE FOR MOONBENDER WOULD END HERE.
ALL ANYONE HAD TO DO TO FIND US...
...WAS FOLLOW THE TRAIL OF BLOOD.


I'M SORRY, FRIEND.
ZAAAASH
WHY DID YOU COME HERE?
TO TAKE THE COLONY, OBVIOUSLY.
I WAS ALWAYS BETTER WITH DROIDS THAN WITH MEDICINE.
AND ALL HE NEEDED WAS A LITTLE REPROGRAMMING.
BENNIE... CANDY.
ZZZZAAAAPPP
AAAAGHH!


IT IS FINISHED, MY LORD. MOONBENDER IS OURS.
AND ITS DEFENDERS?
ALL DEAD.
GOOD. I AM PLEASED.
I SEE THAT YOU ARE INJURED.
IT'S NOTHING. BUT, MASTER...
...WHAT IS IT WE HAVE GAINED? DO THEIR MINES PRODUCE DOONIUM? KYBER?
THEIR MINES? THEY PRODUCE NOTHING.
"THIS WAS SIMPLY A TRAINING MISSION.
"A TEST.
"TO SEE HOW YOU'D FARE AGAINST DIFFERENT STYLES OF COMBAT.
"YOU MAY RETURN NOW."

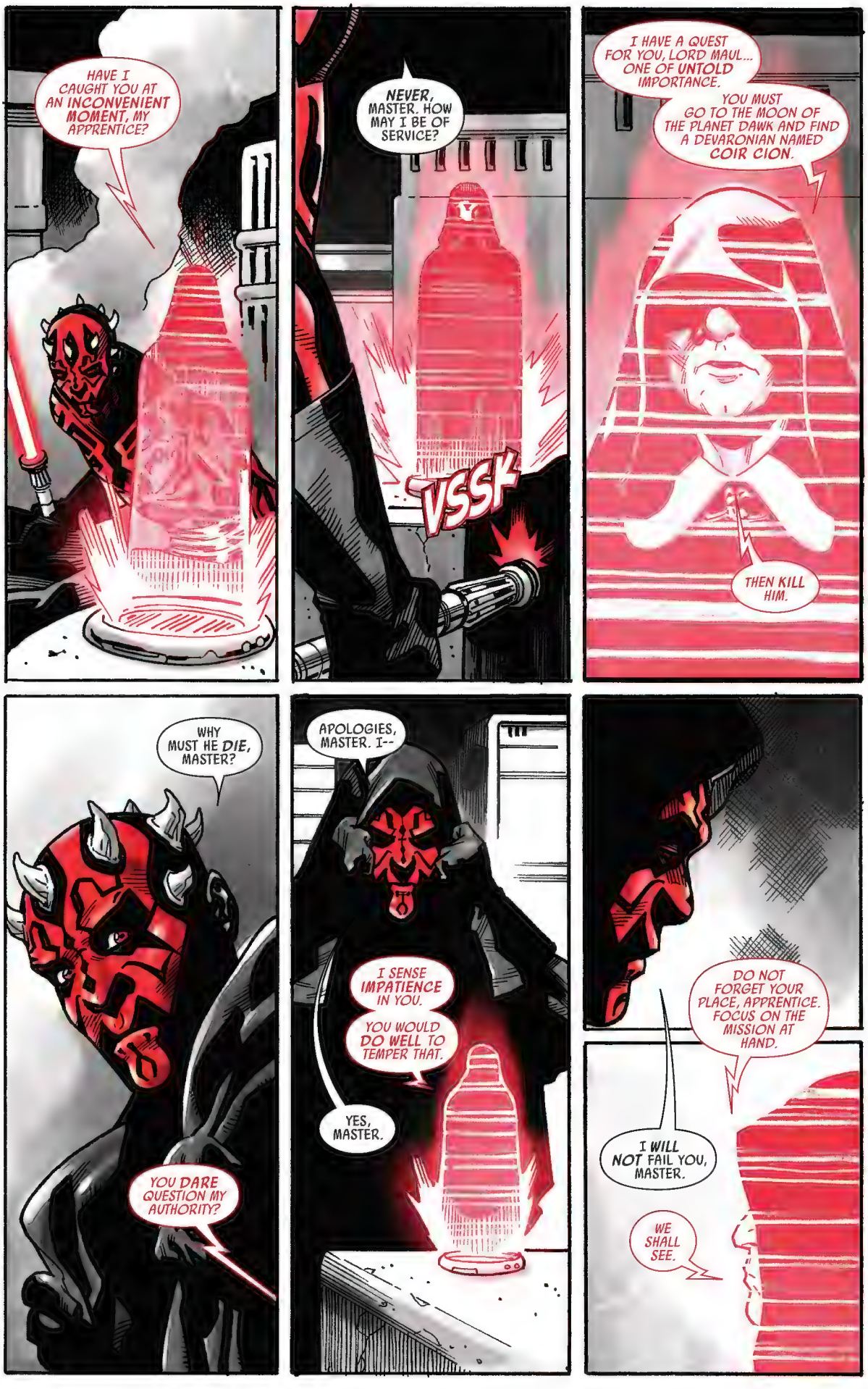
THEY CALLED US THE REMAINDERS. BUT NONE OF US REMAIN.
SO I SUPPOSE THEY'LL HAVE TO COME UP WITH A NEW TERM.
OR MAYBE THAT NEVER DESCRIBED US AT ALL.
MAYBE THE TERM ALWAYS APPLIED TO THOSE WE FOUGHT FOR.
YOU CAN COME OUT.
THAT WHICH WE'D HOPED WOULD SURVIVE US.
KORVIK?
IN A BATTLE WHERE DARKNESS ALWAYS WINS...
...VICTORY IS MEASURED IN WHATEVER LIGHT ESCAPES.
End.

#1 Variant by
DAVID MARQUEZ

#3

Coruscant.
Lower levels.
WHILE MY MASTER TOILS IN THE UPPER LEVELS OF THE BUREAUCRACY THAT KEEPS THIS REPUBLIC FUNCTIONING...
...I DEDICATE MYSELF TO THE TENETS HE HAS TAUGHT ME.
SOON

PEW
PEW
PEW
FZZT
GAH!
GRRR...
VSSK
OUCH
PEW
PEW
PEW
PEW
PEW
PEW
PEW
PEW
KMMM
PEW
PEW
VWOOM
FWASSH

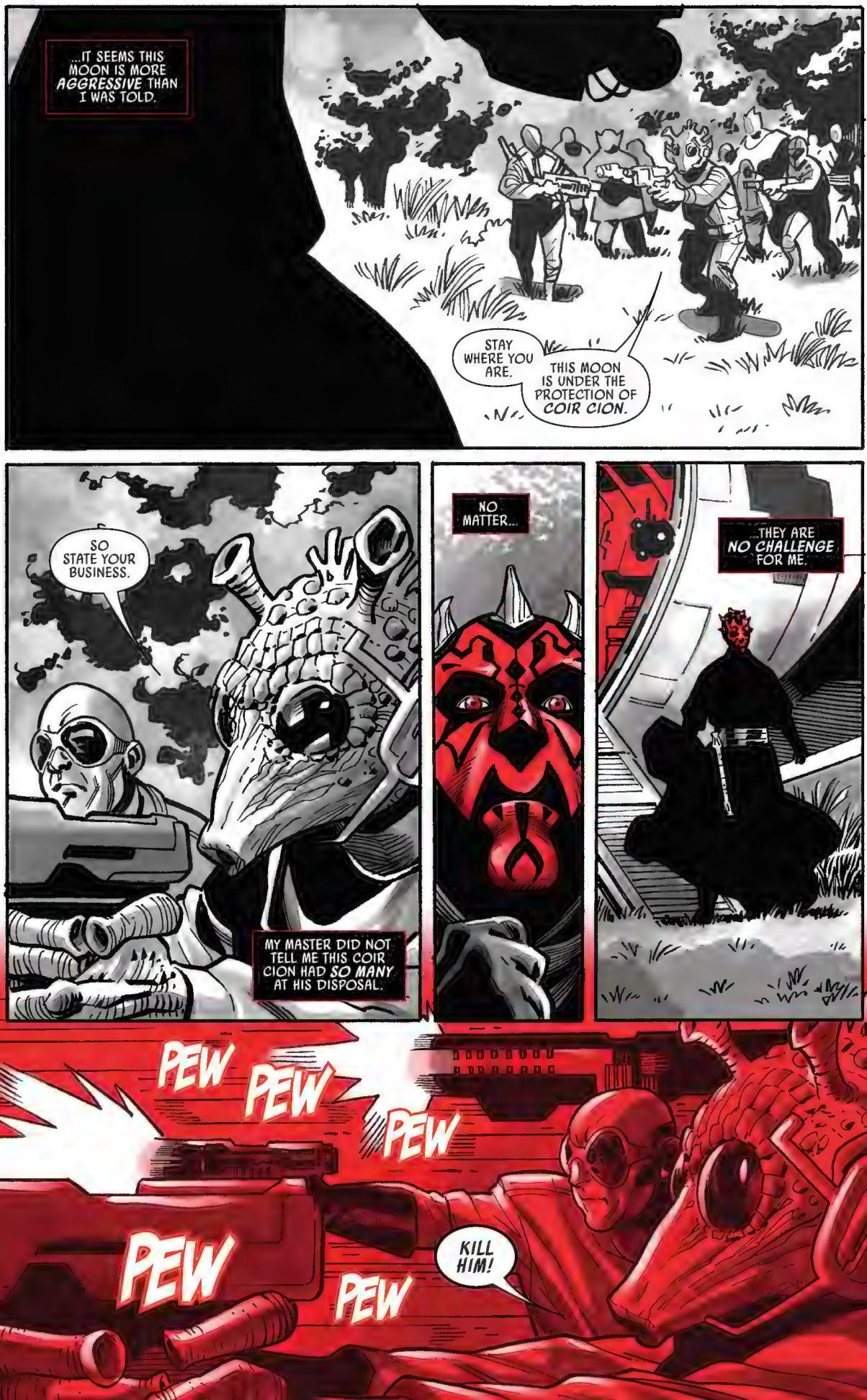

HAVE I CAUGHT YOU AT AN INCONVENIENT MOMENT, MY APPRENTICE?
NEVER, MASTER. HOW MAY I BE OF SERVICE?
VSSK
I HAVE A QUEST FOR YOU, LORD MAUL... ONE OF UNTOLD IMPORTANCE.
YOU MUST GO TO THE MOON OF THE PLANET DAWK AND FIND A DEVARONIAN NAMED COIR CION.
THEN KILL HIM.
WHY MUST HE DIE, MASTER?
YOU DARE QUESTION MY AUTHORITY?
APOLOGIES, MASTER. I--
I SENSE IMPATIENCE IN YOU.
YOU WOULD DO WELL TO TEMPER THAT.
YES, MASTER.
DO NOT FORGET YOUR PLACE, APPRENTICE. FOCUS ON THE MISSION AT HAND.
I WILL NOT FAIL YOU, MASTER.
WE SHALL SEE.

The Outer Rim.
Near the planet Dawk.
LORD SIDIOUS DOUBTS MY ABILITIES.
HE ACTS AS IF THE SITH WAY OF BEING IS NOT ALREADY ETCHED INTO MY SOUL.
THESE TASKS ARE TO PROVE MY LOYALTY AND MY METTLE.
YET THIS DROID IS TO WATCH OVER ME...
...NOT FOR PROTECTION, BUT CONFIRMATION THAT I EXECUTE HIS WISHES.
NO MATTER. I WILL FULFILL MY PURPOSE.
I AM THE SHARPEST WEAPON MY MASTER HAS AT HIS DISPOSAL...
...POINT ME TOWARD THE TASK, AND I SHALL NOT FALTER.
BUT I SENSED... FEAR IN MY MASTER--
NO. I MUST NOT QUESTION HIM.
HE HAS KNOWLEDGE OF THE FORCE THAT I DO NOT.
AND I CANNOT SEE THE WHOLE OF HIS MACHINATIONS.
I MUST TRUST IN HIM.

The moon of Dawk. Korts Cantina.
Territory of the fugitive Coir Cion.
ALL THAT SKULKING AROUND THE LOWER LEVELS OF CORUSCANT DID ME SOME GOOD.
THIS TIME *TOMORROW*, I'LL BE A *FREE MAN*.
THEN WHO'LL LOOK AFTER ALL THIS *PRIME TERRITORY*?
YOU CAN HAVE IT, DEVI.
AFTER I GET MY *PARDON*, I'M GOING *LEGIT!*
NO MORE RUNNING FOR *ME*.
BANTHA POODOO.
YOU EXPECT A *PARDON*... AFTER ALL *YOU'VE DONE?*
WITH THE DIRT I GOT ON THIS *ONE SENATOR*... I'LL BE WRITING MY OWN TICKET.
COIR CION... *COIR CION!*
=PANT= WE HAVE *INCOMING*.

INCOMING? THERE HASN'T BEEN SO MUCH AS A TRANSMISSION IN THIRTY ROTATIONS!
WHO'D BE COMING HERE?
I'M NOT SURE.
DANK FARRIK!
I KNEW HE WAS FULL OF IT.
JUST LOOK AT HOW BADLY HE CHEATS AT SABACC.
WHOEVER IT IS, ARO, TRACK THEM!
I WANT TO KNOW WHERE THEY LAND AND WHY THEY'RE HERE.
YESSIR.
TAKE A SQUAD WITH YOU AS A WELCOMING PARTY.
ANYTHING YOU SAY, COIR CION.
AND WHEN YOU'VE GOT YOUR ANSWERS...
...BRING ME THEIR HEAD.

PATIENCE...
...LORD SIDIOUS KNOWS THAT IS MY WEAKNESS.
MY MASTER SAYS THE SITH'S RISE TO POWER MUST BE A PATIENT AND SLOW PROCESS...
...SOMETIMES TOO SLOW FOR MY LIKING.
BUT MY DESTINY IS LINKED TO MY MASTER.
ONLY WITH HIS TEACHINGS MAY I BECOME THE SITH I AM MEANT TO BE.
INTERESTING...


...IT SEEMS THIS MOON IS MORE AGGRESSIVE THAN I WAS TOLD.
STAY WHERE YOU ARE.
THIS MOON IS UNDER THE PROTECTION OF COIR CION.
SO STATE YOUR BUSINESS.
MY MASTER DID NOT TELL ME THIS COIR CION HAD SO MANY AT HIS DISPOSAL.
NO MATTER...
...THEY ARE NO CHALLENGE FOR ME.
PEW
PEW
PEW
PEW
PEW
KILL HIM!

MY MASTER WISHES FOR THE SITH TO REMAIN *HIDDEN*...

...SO THESE BRIGANDS *WILL NOT LIVE* TO TELL A SOUL.

WHAK

KRAK

PEW

PEW

PEW

PEW

PEW

PEW

PEW

PEW

PEW

OH MY... I SURRENDER.

I SURRENDER!

YOU'RE =CHOKE= A JEDI?!
IT SEEMS THE SITH TRULY ARE FORGOTTEN...
...THAT WILL CHANGE.
WHAT ORDERS DID YOUR MASTER COIR CION GIVE YOU?
TO--TAKE--YOUR--HEAD.
=KOFF KOFF= THANK =KAFF= YOU!
I'LL--HUK--TAKE YOU TO HIM--
IF IT'S A HEAD YOUR MASTER WANTS...
VMMM
...THEN A HEAD HE SHALL HAVE.

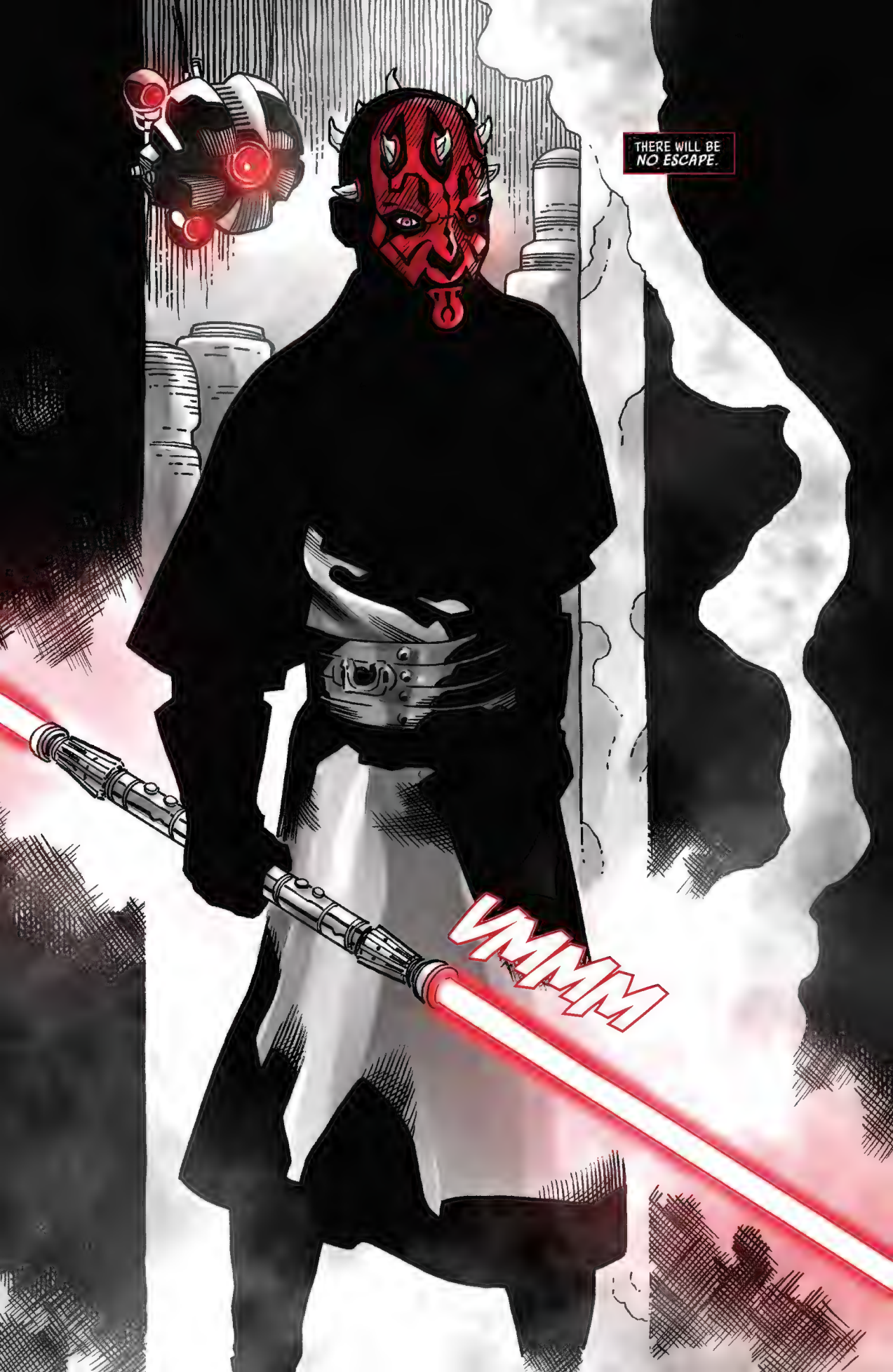
The Senate District. Coruscant.
WE SHOULD REALLY BRING THIS TO THE FLOOR FOR A VOTE, SENATOR PALPATINE.
I AGREE. I'LL SCHEDULE TIME WITH CHANCELLOR VALORUM TO--
I WOULDN'T BRING THIS TO THE CHANCELLOR JUST YET, MY DEAR.
BUT YOU UNDERSTAND OUR CONCERNS--
OF COURSE I DO.
BUT WE WOULDN'T WANT TO BOTHER THE CHANCELLOR WITH A PROPOSAL WE'RE NOT SURE WILL PASS.
HE'S VERY BUSY, AND NONE OF US WOULD WANT TO BE SEEN AS WASTING HIS TIME.
YOU KNOW YOU CAN COUNT ON MY VOTE, BUT PERHAPS NOT ALL THE SENATORS WILL AGREE.
WHY DON'T YOU MEET WITH THE SENATORS FROM KUAT AND ORD MANTELL?
THEY SEEM TO BE THE FIERCEST HOLDOUTS.
YOU CAN EACH TAKE A SENATOR TO DIVIDE AND CONQUER.
THANK YOU, SHEEV. YOUR COUNSEL MEANS SO MUCH TO US.
YES, YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN SO HELPFUL.
MY PLEASURE.
NOW GOODBYE.

YOU HAVE THREE ROTATIONS TO GET ME MY PARDON, SENATOR PALPATINE...
...OR I TELL EVERYONE WHO YOU REALLY ARE.
OH, COIR CION...
KRSH
...YOU WON'T HAVE THE CHANCE.

ARO... ARO, COME IN.
FZZT.
I'M SURE HE'S FINE.
YEAH, HAVE A CORELLIAN NOG. THAT'LL CALM YOUR NERVES.
NO...ARO'S BEEN WITH ME SINCE THE JOB ON NAL HUTTA. I KNOW WHEN HE'S IN TROUBLE.
WHAT THE--?
ARO, COME IN!
ARO, COME IN!
ARO?

UH...MAYBE JUST LET IT BE, COIR CION.
YEAH... LET SLEEPING RANCORS LIE.
GAH!
SHUNK

CLOSE IN ON ME.
I'M NOT STICKING AROUND.
ME NEITHER.
WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
KRIFF...
FWSH


THERE WILL BE NO ESCAPE.
VMMM

TAKE HIM DOWN!
PEW
PEW
PEW
THEIR RESISTANCE IS A WASTE.
THEY HAVE NO CHANCE OF SURVIVAL.
IT IS A PITY THEY SIMPLY CANNOT ACCEPT THEIR OWN DEATHS.

WHOA!

ARGH!

PEW

PEW

PEW

PEW

NO, NO, NO!

WHUMP

PEW

PEW

PEW

WHU

WHU

WHU

SLISH

VROOM

DROID, SCAN THEM ALL.
I FEEL THE COWARD'S PRESENCE.

TO HELL WITH YA!
PEW PEW
HOW NAIVE HE IS OF THE FORCE.
ACK!
WHAM
DROID, SCAN--
IDENTITY CONFIRMED.
MATCH FOR FUGITIVE COIR CION.
TELL ME... WHY ARE YOU MARKED FOR DEATH?
I--I USED TO HANG IN THE LOWER LEVELS OF CORUSCANT...

"...YOU NEVER KNOW *WHO* YOU'LL RUN INTO DOWN THERE.
"ONE TIME I SAW THIS FINELY DRESSED *CHAGRIAN*, AND THOUGHT I COULD *SCAM* A FEW EASY CREDITS FROM HIM.
"THERE'S ALWAYS SOME *TOURIST* GETTING LOST, AND THEY'RE EASY PREY.
"BUT THIS CHAGRIAN HAD *BUSINESS* TO DEAL WITH.
"WHY ELSE WOULD SOMEONE LIKE *HIM* BE DOWN THERE?
"SO I CHECKED IN ON HIM...
"...AND HE WAS MEETING WITH A PIRATE I KNOW.

"I WANTED TO KNOW WHAT HE WAS UP TO, SO I KEPT A TAIL ON THE CHAGRIAN ALL THE WAY TO THE UPPER LEVELS.
"FOLLOWED HIM RIGHT TO THE SENATE DISTRICT.
"AND YOU'LL NEVER GUESS WHO HE MET UP WITH...
"...IT WAS THE 'HONORABLE' SENATOR FROM NABOO...*SHEEV PALPATINE.*"

PALPATINE...
MY MASTER'S CONCERNS COME CLEARLY INTO FOCUS.
KRASH
=KOFF= BLACKMAILING A SENATOR CAN MEAN *BIG CREDITS!*
WE COULD WORK TOGETHER... *SPLIT* THE TAKE SIXTY-FORTY.
I DO NOT CARE ABOUT *CREDITS.*
MY MISSION IS MORE *IMPORTANT* THAN THE TRIVIALITIES YOU GIVE SUCH WEIGHT TO.
WELL, I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO KEEP *ALL* THE CREDITS FOR MYSELF, THEN.

COIR CION HAS LEARNED NOTHING THIS DAY.
RUNNCH
KLIK
WHAT THE--?
YOU AND THOSE LIKE YOU HAVE NO HONOR... NO PURPOSE.
YEAH? AND WHAT'S YOUR PURPOSE, THEN?
APPRENTICE... HAVE YOU COMPLETED YOUR TASK?

HAK!
YES, MASTER.

MY MASTER'S DUELING IDENTITIES WOULD EXHAUST ME.
THOUGH HIS DECEPTION IS IMPERATIVE TO ENSURE THE RISE OF THE SITH.
APPRENTICE...
I CAN NEVER SENSE HIM...
...HIS GRASP OF THE FORCE IS TOO GREAT.
MASTER...I DID AS YOU ASKED.
COIR CION IS DEAD.
YOU HAVE DONE WELL, LORD MAUL...
...BUT YOU HESITATED IN TAKING HIS LIFE.
WHY?
MASTER, I--I WAS CURIOUS WHY ONE SUCH AS COIR CION COULD BE A THR--
DO I APPEAR THREATENED, APPRENTICE?
YOU CONTINUE TO CONCERN YOURSELF WITH MATTERS YOU HAVE NO BUSINESS WITH.
GNNF.

YOU HAVE SHOWN ME THAT YOU *STILL* HAVE MUCH TO LEARN, LORD MAUL.
HERE...
WHAT IS IT?
YOUR NEXT MISSION.
DO *NOT* HESITATE THIS TIME.
End.

#1 Variant by
FRANK MILLER & ALEX SINCLAIR

*4

GOVERNOR!
THERE'S AN ASSASSIN ON THE PREMISES!
THIS WAY, SIR!
WE'RE ALMOST THERE!
THE ENTIRE ELITE GARRISON IS HERE. THERE'S NO WAY THIS KILLER CAN REACH YOU.
UNLESS...
WHA--?!
...HE ALREADY HAS.

YOU HAVE DONE WELL, MY APPRENTICE...
...BUT YOU COULD HAVE LEFT ONCE YOU KILLED THE GOVERNOR.
THE GUARDS WERE NOT YOUR TARGET.
BUT THEY SERVED THE ENEMY, LORD SIDIOUS.
THEY HAD TO DIE.
YES...
...THIS IS WHAT I'VE TRAINED YOU FOR.
TO EXTERMINATE EVERY OPPONENT.
BUT EVEN A SITH MUST LEARN...
...THAT OUR SUCCESS DEPENDS AS MUCH ON STRATEGY AS STRENGTH.
SOMETIMES WE MUST BIDE OUR TIME.
FOR YOUR NEXT MISSION, YOU WILL GO TO THE FORGOTTEN SITH TEMPLE ON AH RE WON...
...WHERE YOU WILL CONTROL YOUR RAGE BY MEDITATING...
...IN STILLNESS AND QUIET...
...UNTIL I ARRIVE.

Ah Re Won.
Outer Rim.
HEY, STRANGER.
TWO CREDITS A DAY, ROOM AND TWO MEALS. BREAKFAST AT DAWN, SUPPER AT SUNSET.
WHAT ELSE COULD YOU WANT?
QUIET.
NOTED.

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT!

YOU'RE THREE MONTHS BEHIND, ALMA!
I WAS HERE LONG BEFORE YOU EVER SHOWED UP! I DON'T SEE WHY I HAVE TO PAY ANYTHING!
WHY ARE YOU BOTHERING ME?
WE GOT A TOWN NOW, AND I'M THE MAYOR. IF YOU CAN'T PAY, I'LL BE OBLIGED TO TAKE YOUR BUILDING AND LAND.
YOU'VE GOT ALL THE SPACE YOU NEED!
WELL, I GOT THE BEACH ACCESS...
...BUT YOU'RE BLOCKING THE VIEW OF THE RUINS.
TOURISTS LIKE TO SEE THAT STUFF TOO.
YOU CAN'T PAY, YOU GOTTA GO.
DAMN YOUR NOSES.
clink clink
HA HA HA. I KNEW YOU WERE HOLDING OUT.
HEY, STRANGER.
WHY'RE YOU STAYING IN THIS DUMP? COME OVER TO THE HOTEL--WE'LL SHOW YOU A HELL OF A LOT BETTER TIME.

I LIKE THE QUIET.
HMP.
YOU'RE STILL SHORT, ALMA!
BUT THAT'S ALL I HAVE!
YOU GOTTA COME UP WITH A BETTER ANSWER THAN THAT!
SKLAANNNG
SKLLAAAAANG
THAT'S IT! YOU JUST KEEP THAT GOING.
SKLAANNNG
YES, MR. MAYOR.
HA HA HA HA HA!
SKLLAAAAANG

SKLAANNNG
SKLLAAAAANG
SKLAANNNG
SKLLAAAAANG
SKLAANNNG
UGH!
SKLLAAAAANG
SKLLAAAAANG
ALL RIGHT, ALMA...
...IF THE NOISE WON'T DRIVE YOU OUT...
HA HA HA!
SKLLAAAAANG
SKLAANNNG
SKLLAAAAANG
SKLLAAAAANG
WHA--?

WHZZZZITT
SKLLAAAAANG
UGH!
MR. MAYOR...?
WAIT...
AAAAH...
...FINALLY...
...A LITTLE QUIET.

In the morning...
WHERE'D YOU GO, STRANGER?
KRRRRRRR!
OH...
...BEAUTIFUL...
ALMA! ALMA, ARE YOU THERE?
TCH.

WHAT'S ALL THIS RACKET?
THE MAYOR HAS GONE MISSING!
HAVE YOU SEEN HIM?
NO.
AND I HAVEN'T HEARD HIM EITHER, WHICH IS A BLESSING.
HMP.
THE NEXT GROUP OF GUESTS ARE ARRIVING SOON!
OH DEAR!
WE SIMPLY HAVE TO FIND HIM!
WAIT, THERE'S THAT OLD HEAT SENSOR UNIT IN THE SUPPLY ROOM!
OF COURSE! LET'S SEE IF WE CAN GET IT WORKING AGAIN!
THAT'LL DEFINITELY HELP US FIND HIM...
"...IF HE'S ANYWHERE NEARBY."

SNORT
SNUFF
SNUFF

WELL, THAT...
...TAKES CARE OF THAT.
FWWOOOOOOOSSSH
HRRN...

HEY, STRANGERS!
TWO CREDITS A DAY, ROOM AND TWO MEALS. BREAKFAST AT DAWN, SUPPER AT SUNSET!
WHAT ELSE COULD YOU--
SHUT UP, OLD LADY.
WE'RE NOT STAYING IN THAT DUMP.
WE CAME FOR THE BEST!
AH! PRINCE AFOLONKIN, I PRESUME?
YOU PRESUME RIGHT, CHROME TOP!
TING TING TING
HA HA HA!
LET'S GET THIS PARTY STARTED!
BWOMMP BWOOMMP BWOOOM BWOOOMP
UGH.

WHAT ARE WE DOING OUT HERE?
LOOK AT ALL THIS CULT JUNK.
KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN!
WHOOOPS!
SKRASSSH
SKRAKK
HA HA HA! THIS STUFF BREAKS PRETTY EASY!
HEY, LOOK AT THIS!
KARAFANKATA TRACKS.
NEVER SEEN ANY THAT BIG.
I TOLD YOU THIS WAS THE PLACE!
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT!
OKAY, THEN. DRINK UP WHILE THE SUN'S SHINING, BOYS AND GIRLS...
"...BECAUSE TONIGHT WE HUNT."

ALL RIGHT, LET'S DO THIS!
HA HA HA HA!
HEY, WHAT'S THAT?
BRZZAM
BRZZZAAAM
BRZZAM
AW, IT WAS JUST SOME DANG BIRDS.
HANG ON, HANG ON, HERE ARE THE TRACKS!
EVERYONE, SHUT UP!
ALL RIGHT, NOW.
THIS THING'S MINE, YOU GOT IT?
WE GOT IT.

GRR44444!
AAAGH!
CLICK!
WHAT THE HELL?!
GRRAAAAAA!
AAAAH! WE'RE DEAD!
NO...
...IT'S PROTECTING ITS BABIES.
SO IT'S JUST TRYING TO SCARE US OFF.
AW. THAT'S CUTE.
AIN'T IT THOUGH?
HA HA HA HA!

VVZZZZAAAAN
GAAH!
BRRZZZAM
WHAT THE--?!
BRRRZAAAAM
THERE! SHOOT IT!
VZZZZAAAAM
UKK!
PRINCE! RUN!
AAAAAG!!

VZZZAAAM
GAH!
AAGH!
VZZZAAAM
WAIT, NO, LET'S TALK--!
NO.
VZZZZAAAM
NO. MORE. NOISE.

VRRR

GREETINGS FROM THE PIRATE KING OF SECTOR NINE!
COME OUT OR WE'LL BURN THE PLACE DOWN!
WE'RE COMING, WE'RE COMING!
YOU COULD HAVE JUST KNOCKED, ACTUALLY...
WE'RE LOOKING FOR FOUR HUNTERS! PRINCE AFOLONKIN'S PARTY!
AH, YES, THEY WERE HERE!
WE KNOW THAT! WHERE ARE THEY NOW?
WHEN THEY DIDN'T SHOW UP FOR BREAKFAST, WE GOT...WORRIED?
AND SURE ENOUGH, WE PICKED UP SOME HEAT TRACES IN THE RUINS.
AND...WELL...
...WE BELIEVE THE HUNTERS... BECAME THE HUNTED.
WHAT...
...ARE YOU SAYING?

MY...
...MY SON...
...WAS EATEN?!
YOUR SON?
AH. OUR CONDOLENCES.
UNFORTUNATELY, WE MUST ALSO NOTE THAT HE LEFT HIS BILL UNPAID.
AS HIS FATHER, PERHAPS YOU COULD--
BRRZZZAAAM
BRRZZZZZAAM
BRZZZAAAM
AH, BOSS.
IT'S A TERRIBLE THING, JUST A TERRIBLE--
BRRRZZZZZAAAM
WHO ELSE???
WHO ELSE STOOD BY--

--WHILE MY SON DIED?
HUH...
YOU!
DAMN.
FIRE!
FRAAK--
--KRAAKOOOOOOM

GAH!
THERE!
SHE'S GETTING AWAY!
FIRE!
FRAAKOOOOOOM
FIRE!
I SAID FIRE!

WHO THE DEVIL ARE YOU?
YOU'LL NEVER KNOW.
DID YOU...
...DID YOU KILL MY SON?
ALL I WANT...
...IS QUIET.
HNN.
SOUND THE CHARGE!
AWWOOOOOOO
RRR...

HA.
YES...
...AFTER ALL, I DID ASK YOU FOR...

...STILLNESS...
...AND QUIET.
End.

#2 Variant by
DANNY EARLS

#2 Variant by
DAVID MARQUEZ

#2 Variant by
GABRIELE DELL'OTTO

#3 Variant by
DAVID MARQUEZ

#3 Variant by
JOHN ROMITA JR., SCOTT HANNA & MARCIO MENYZ

#3 Variant by
PAULO SIQUEIRA & **RACHELLE ROSENBERG**

#4 Variant by
WALTER SIMONSON & **LAURA MARTIN**

#4 Variant by
DAVID MARQUEZ

#1 Movie Variant

DARTH MAUL STARS IN HIS OWN ANTHOLOGY SERIES!

One of the most famous villains in *Star Wars* lore stars in epic tales illustrated in stark black and white — and his own iconic red! When a prison ship — transporting a cult known as the Final Occultation — goes offline, Darth Maul is sent by Palpatine to investigate. What he finds on board is the stuff of nightmares! On another mission to conquer a mining colony, unexpected opposition leads him into an intense battle of life and death — and Maul learns one of his most valuable lessons! He may be fiercely loyal to his master and a true believer in the Sith, but will a journey to a remote moon change his mind? Why has Palpatine sent his apprentice to an ancient world? And who will pay the price...for patience?

Collecting ***Star Wars: Darth Maul — Black, White & Red (2024) #1-4*** — by Benjamin Percy, Mark Russell, Erica Schultz, Greg Pak, Stefano Raffaele, Carlos Nieto, Leonard Kirk, Luca Pizzari, Will Sliney, Jay Leisten, Roberto Poggi, Raúl Angulo and Andres Mossa.

MARVEL

Disney · LUCASFILM